

New information centre approved

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday approved an amendment to the Ministry of Information system. According to the amendment, a press and publications department will be created at the ministry. The Cabinet also approved the national information centre system. The centre, which aims to build an integrated information system at the national level, will coordinate gathering information in the public and private sectors and will coordinate between them. The Cabinet approved also recommendations by Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Khatib, who chairs the board of directors of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC), naming members of the new VTC board of directors. The Council of Ministers also approved Jordan's participation in the 10th session of the Arab Housing and Construction Ministers Council meetings to be held at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo Nov. 3. Jordan's delegation to the meetings will be headed by Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayat Surur and will include the director general of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة منشورة من قبل المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

U.N. hits new snag in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — United Nations arms experts said Tuesday they still had to solve several technical problems before the destruction of Iraq's stockpiles of poison gas starts in earnest. Team leader Garth Whitty said a hydrolysis plant, due to begin bulk neutralisation of nerve gas last week, was not yet operating at full capacity. "It is running but we have to solve a few problems," Mr. Whitty told Reuters before leaving for Muthana, the destruction site for Iraq's vast chemical arsenal. "I hope they will be resolved in the next couple of months," he said. "Hiccups are inevitable in work like this." He did not explain the problems. Mr. Whitty, a 42-year-old Briton, heads a team of 30 experts supervising the scrapping of Iraq's chemical weapons under Gulf war ceasefire terms. They travel every day to Muthana, 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, where the Iraqis have dumped between 30,000 and 40,000 bombs, rockets and shells at a site designated by the U.N.

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Lebanon says no to environment talks

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon Tuesday rejected an invitation to attend multilateral talks on the environment with Israel and other Arab states later this month, the Beirut Voice of the Nation radio station reported. It quoted Zafar Al Hassan, acting secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry, as telling the U.S. and Soviet charge d'affaires who conveyed the invitation that Lebanon "does not feel the time is right to participate in the multilateral talks." No-one was available at the Foreign Ministry's press department to comment. The talks, scheduled for late October in the Hague, are part of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations sponsored by the United States and Russia.

93,700 candidates in Moroccan polls

RABAT (R) — More than 93,700 candidates will contest 22,282 seats on rural and municipal councils in Morocco in a run-up to the country's first parliamentary elections in eight years, Interior Minister Driss Bassi said Tuesday. He told a news conference the local council electoral campaign which opened last Thursday showed "enormous enthusiasm" on the part of eight political parties and independent candidates. The contest on Oct. 16 will be between four centre-right parties of the outgoing parliament and four opposition groups with non-party independents in the middle. King Hassan and Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani have promised the elections will be "fair, honest and transparent." Mr. Bassi added that the administration would be "absolutely neutral." For the first time the state is financing the electoral campaign, the polls will be supervised by multi-party watchdogs, and penalties for fraud have been increased.

S. Arabia executed 38 for drug crimes

ABU DHABI (R) — Saudi Arabia has executed more than 38 people convicted of drug smuggling in the past five years, a Saudi security official said Tuesday. Brigadier Mohammed Al Maliki, drug enforcement chief in the Red Sea port of Jeddah, said Saudi Arabia was enforcing Islamic religious law in dealing with drug offenders and urged other Gulf countries to do the same. "More than 38 people of different nationalities have been executed since the death penalty was enforced against drug smugglers," a Brit. Maliki told reporters at an anti-drug conference. He said countries "which stick to Islam and its book the Koran should enforce the death penalty against these people." Saudi Arabia began applying the death penalty for drug smugglers in 1987. Interpol said that in 1991 more than eight tonnes of drugs were seized in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait.

2 Lebanese held for Berlin attack

BONN (AP) — Two Lebanese men were arrested for allegedly bursting into a Berlin restaurant last month and shooting to death the leader of an Iranian Kurdish group and three colleagues, the federal prosecutor's office said Tuesday. There is suspicion that the two Lebanese men were hired by enemies of the Kurdish leader to carry out the Sept. 17 killing, according to the Karlsruhe-based prosecutor's office. A statement by Germany's chief prosecutor did not specifically identify who is believed to have put out the contract to kill Sadiq Sharafkandi, head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran. Mr. Sharafkandi's predecessor — veteran guerrilla leader Abdul Rahman Qasbi — was assassinated in Vienna in 1990. Iranian government agents were suspected of being responsible for Mr. Qasbi's death. The Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran seeks autonomy for 61.5 million Kurds in that country. The prosecutor's office identified the two suspects in the Sept. 17 shootings as Abbas Rhyael who also uses the aliases Imad Amman and Ragbi, and 24-year-old Yousef Amin. No age was given for Rhyael.

Arafat calls for consolidated Arab stand in peace talks

Palestinian leader given full state welcome with all honours

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Tuesday Jordan and the Palestinians were seeking means to consolidate a united Arab position in peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Arafat, president of Palestine and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was speaking to Jordan Television after a round of talks with His Majesty King Hussein shortly after his arrival here.

"We do not want the new world order to be built at the expense of the Arab people," said Mr. Arafat, who said upon his arrival here that his main purpose of his visit was to congratulate His Majesty upon his successful surgery abroad and safe return home late last month.

"A consolidated Arab stand is necessary," he said. Although the PLO leader did not elaborate, the comment was seen as a reflection of widely perceived Palestinian fears that Syria might cut a separate deal with Israel without addressing the Palestinian problem in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Arafat, however, said in Cairo last week that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has personally assured him that Damascus would not go it alone with Israel and was insisting on total Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war in exchange for peace.

Israel has not accepted to withdraw totally from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and is offering only a partial pullout from Syria's Golan Heights in

return for peace. At the same time, it has also frozen all public overtures to Syria, saying Damascus should announce what it meant by "total peace;" for Israel, as its Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has put, it means "open borders and diplomatic relations..."

Mr. Assad reportedly told French Foreign Minister Roland Dumusquier this week that Syria was ready for "total peace" with Israel in return for "total Israeli withdrawal" from all Arab territories it occupied in the 1967 war.

Mr. Arafat, who is accompanied by a senior PLO delegation, told Jordan Television that Israel's unwillingness to agree to an unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, was an obstacle to peace.

Mr. Arafat, who underwent surgery to remove a blood clot from his brain at an Amman hospital in June, also held a meeting of PLO Executive Committee members Tuesday evening. No details of what was discussed during the meeting were immediately available.

Upon his arrival here, Mr. Arafat was accorded an unprecedented head-of-state welcome ceremony attended by King Hussein and a top-level Jordanian delegation including the prime minister, speakers of Parliament, the Royal Court chief, cabinet members, the chief chamberlain and the chief of protocol along with other senior officials. Palestine National Council

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Reformists sweep Kuwaiti elections

From Ghadeer Taher
from Kuwait

PRO-DEMOCRACY groups and liberals, including religious candidates, won more than an absolute majority in Kuwait's first full parliamentary elections in six years held Monday, final results showed Tuesday.

The victory of opposition groups committed to bringing about democratic reforms to the tightly-run emirate is a strong signal to the ruling Al Sabah family to change the way it manages the affairs of the oil-rich country.

Kuwaitis, glued to their television screens watching officials count over 70,000 ballots — around 85 per cent of the eligible electorate in a country of 600,000 — had to wait until early Tuesday for the first returns. But for those supporting reform in the emirate against the traditionalist pro-regime line, it was worth the wait. Final results from the 25 constituencies — with two seats each in the 50-member National Assembly — showed a mixture of pro-democratic, independents, liberals and Islamists winning 32 seats in the assembly, the only democratically elected parliament in the Arab Gulf.

Eighteen winners had ties with Islamic groups, which want to amend constitution to make it more Islamic, and 13 were opposition liberals.

The opposition's showing was a surprise to most Kuwaitis, whose most optimistic expectations was that reformists would win 25 at best. But the opposition majority will be somewhat diluted when appointed cabinet ministers join parliament. Under the Kuwaiti constitution, government ministers automatically become parliament members guaranteeing strong government support in the assembly.

"Kuwait votes for change," read the lead headline in Kuwait's leading English-language daily Arab Times, reflecting the demand of most Kuwaitis, frustrated by the ruling

family's return to its business-as-usual approach after a traumatic seven-month Iraqi occupation.

"Today's results are a vote of no-confidence in the government's handling of the country," said a supporter of the liberal Kuwaiti Democratic Forum at a victory celebration. "We want to build a Kuwait on healthier foundations and not continue with the same old ways."

The poor showing of former members of the National Council, a puppet parliament set up as a substitute for the National Assembly which was abrogated in 1965, was another blow to the emir.

Kuwaitis voters had faced a clear choice of political leanings: Secular liberalism, radical and moderate Islam, or allegiance to the Al Sabah family, which has ruled the emirate since the mid-18th century.

Voters went to the polls complaining about a slump in business, shortage of skilled workers, and the laws that change to suit the needs of the moment — in essence, the state of permanent instability.

The emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will choose a cabinet within two weeks. The opposition has demanded that half the portfolios go to members of parliament.

The election was an affair strictly limited to Kuwait's "first-class" citizens — over 21 males who can trace their ancestry to pre-1920. This means only one in seven of Kuwait's 600,000 citizens made their voice heard through the ballot box.

Kuwaitis have waited a long time for a return to democracy. Its absence, opposition members say, was partly responsible for the tragedy of Aug. 2, 1990, when Iraqi soldiers overran the emirate within a few hours.

The National Assembly has been dissolved twice at the flick of the emir's pen, the last time in 1986 when parliamentarians persisted in questioning government

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Arafat meets Habash

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habash met here Tuesday to discuss their differences over the direction that Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are taking in the ongoing peace process.

Two weeks ago the PFLP joined Nayef Hawatme's Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas to call on Palestinian negotiators to withdraw from the peace talks.

Arafat advisors have said that the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would try to settle differences before the seventh round of the negotiations begin in late October.

Specifics of negotiation tactics were said to be on the agenda of the Arafat-Habash dialogue and are expected to be discussed in Damascus today where Mr. Arafat is expected to meet Mr. Hawatme.

With fears mounting that Syria, who hosts up to nine Palestinian parties which are opposed to the Palestinian participation in the peace talks, will sign a separate peace treaty with Israel, Mr. Arafat is seen as trying to consolidate the ranks of the PLO groups.

PFLP and DFLP spokesmen have said that Syria has taken a much more sound approach to the negotiations because it is demanding a complete Israeli withdrawal from lands occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"The Palestinian negotiators began by talking about self-rule, interim periods and administrative councils," said Abdul Rahim Mahab, a spokesman for the PFLP in Amman.

"One starts by defining the goals like the Syrian negotiators did and not by talking about the details," he said.

The groups opposing the peace talks argue that the Washington negotiations do not clearly allow for implementation of U.N. resolutions 181, 194 and 242, which call for Palestinian statehood, the right of return for refugees and an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces.

"By side-stepping international legitimacy as outlined in the U.N. resolutions these peace talks are illegitimate," a top Damascus-based DFLP official told the Jordan Times.

But all Palestinian groups would oppose a separate Syrian-Israeli peace even if Israel agreed to withdraw from all of Syria's Golan Heights. Fearing a weakened Arab and Palestinian position should Syria be "taken out of the negotiating equation," PLO officials say, Mr. Arafat is seeking to reunite Palestinian ranks and, more importantly, to get assurances from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that a separate Syrian-Israeli peace will only come in the framework of an overall and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

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Prosecution witness retracts testimony in Al Nafeer case

By Sana Atiyeh
and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — A key prosecution witness in the Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami case Tuesday retracted statements made during investigations in what was seen as a setback to prosecution efforts to establish that the defendants had a record of involvement with illegal armed groups with suspicious backgrounds.

During Tuesday's session at the trial of the Al Nafeer case at the State Security Court (SSC) at Marka, the prosecution also introduced material evidence, which included documents, as well as explosives seized from a shop in Jabal Hussein.

Lower House of Parliament members Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarashi are being tried in the case, along with the two owners of the shop, the World of Mirrors and Frames, Ahmad Ayoubi and Abdul Hamid Ildakeb.

The documents and explosives were seized in August. The court had already been notified of their

existence, unlike new evidence the prosecution unveiled Monday.

The evidence, which included small quantities of TNT and chemicals as well as steel casings and joints and one hand grenade, was presented by Mhannad Abboud, an officer in the General Intelligence Department (GID). In testimony, Mr. Abboud said what he presented was only "samples" and "most of the (seized) explosives were destroyed since they posed a grave danger."

In cross examination, the officer testified that the explosives were of "the simplest type" and "could be made at home." But he added that they could have the same effect as "regular" explosives.

Hamad Al Amer, a police expert on handwriting, produced several documents and a small brown photo album as evidence in support charges that Mr. Shbeilat had slandered His Majesty the King. Defence lawyers put off cross-examining the expert pending their scrutiny

of the evidence.

At the outset of Tuesday's session, the court overruled a defence objection to the introduction of any new evidence by the prosecution. This evidence, according to prosecutor Major Mhannad Hijazi, was seized during a raid on Saturday, Oct. 3, at three different homes in Amman, one of them belonging to the third defendant.

According to prosecution sources, the evidence includes the "political manifesto" of Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami and the group's "internal policy." A 12-page invitation for a "national conference" of an unnamed group was confiscated from Mr. Shbeilat's office, the sources said.

The documents, along with two coloured photographs of the American embassy in Amman, were shown to the Jordan Times by the source. The U.S. mission, along with the French and British embassies, were targeted for attack by the group, Maj. Hijazi said Monday, adding that the

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Gulf states mediate in Saudi-Qatar dispute

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab officials criss-crossed the region Tuesday in hectic efforts to prevent escalation of a border row between Saudi Arabia and Qatar that erupted into a bloody clash last week.

Diplomats around the Gulf said little progress in defusing the crisis had been made so far by the two countries' friends. Ahmad Khalifa Al Suweidi, a senior adviser to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, arrived in the Qatari capital Doha after telephone calls between Sheikh Zayed and the emir of Qatar Monday.

Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in which both countries belong, visited Sheikh Zayed in Abu Dhabi Monday after talks in Qatar. He has since visited the Omani capital Muscat.

Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen was heading for Saudi Arabia and Qatar to follow up talks in the two countries Saturday by the crown prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Kuwait is taking the lead in mediation efforts as current chairman of the GCC, a political and economic alliance that has been rocked by the row between the two members. The other members are Bahrain, Oman and the UAE.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd said Monday he wanted a quick end to the border dispute and proposed the appointment of an international company to mark out the frontier in accordance with a 1965 border agreement between the two countries.

Qatar suspended the agreement after the clash and has not responded to King Fahd's proposal.

"We are still handling the matter with all that we can muster of wisdom and patience because what binds the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the sister State of Qatar from ancient times is firmer and stronger than in be affected by such transient matters," King Fahd was quoted as telling his ministers.

Information Minister Ali Al Shaer said the king then nullified the documents and maps related to the border agreement to ensure that the public had the full picture.

The cabinet then issued a statement affirming eagerness to settle in "a friendly understanding manner" the passing incident which occurred because of squabbles between members of the bedouin communities of the two countries.

It said it was important to quickly implement an article of the 1965 border pact that stipulates the two countries jointly select an international company to demarcate the borders.

Earlier in the day, Qatar played up a show of support from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

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Almost all Palestinian detainees on strike

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Search crews started a full-scale hunt for bodies Tuesday after stabilising a 10-storey apartment building that was sliced in two by an Israeli Jumbo jet.

Officials feared the death toll from the Sunday evening crash of an El Al cargo plane could exceed 250, most of them residents of the low-income housing project. That would make it the worst plane crash in terms of casualties on the ground.

Rescuers pulled two more bodies from the rubble heap Tuesday, bringing the death toll to 14, according to city hall crisis centre spokesman Coes Hulleman.

Workers had been carefully digging by hand because of fears the building might collapse. Cranes were used to pull down tottering slabs of concrete and other rubble, and experts said Tuesday the danger of collapse had been reduced.

Authorities also were looking for the Boeing 747's flight data recorder, which could explain why the plane lost two engines after taking off from Schiphol airport. It crashed as the pilot tried vainly to return for a landing.

A spokesman for Swissair said Tuesday in Zurich that Boeing Co. warned airlines last week of possible problems with the engine mounts of 747s, before the El Al crash. Boeing had said Monday that a notice was issued because of the El Al crash and a similar ooe by a China Airlines cargo jet last December.

Search teams filled stretchers with bits of charred human remains that were barely recognisable as fingers, legs and other body parts. The stench of burnt flesh hung in the cold, damp air at the site in the suburb of Bijlmermeer.

Workers began digging deep

Israel says the strike is a political protest aimed at bolstering the Palestinian position at peace talks which resumed on Oct. 21 in Washington.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shaleh said he would study prisoners' complaints if they ended their fast.

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Search continues for bodies near Schiphol

into the wreckage to search apartments that were sealed off by falling concrete.

Parliament stood for a moment of silence in the Hague for the victims.

"Many of the stricken had come to on vacation from abroad," Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers told the chamber.

Mayor Ed van Thijn said the crash and the ensuing fire were so ferocious that identification of all victims could prove impossible.

"We may never know who they are," he said at a dawn news conference at city hall.

Huib Wijnbergen, a city government spokesman, said the recovery operation was now "going ahead at full speed" but stressed that searchers had to be wary of the building's precarious state.

Officials have said that the operation would last several days.

The corpses were taken to a makeshift morgue in an airport hangar for identification.

The task of identifying victims was expected to be difficult, because many are believed to be illegal aliens. The apartment complex is home to many immigrants from Suriname, Ghana, the Netherlands Antilles, Cape Verde and Pakistan.

Officials said they would not take action against victims' relatives who might be illegal aliens, if they help with identifications.

Premier Maria Liberia Peters of the Netherlands Antilles, a part of the Dutch kingdom, arrived in Amsterdam to survey the disaster, Dutch television reported.

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Congress passes bill including Israel loan guarantees

Washington pledges \$1.8 billion to Israel to 'offset' F-15 sales to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The U.S. Congress approved a foreign aid bill Monday that includes assistance for the former Soviet Union and \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel and sent it to President George Bush for his signature.

The bill provides \$417 million in aid for the former Soviet states, but half of Russia's share of non-humanitarian aid would be conditioned on the substantial withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic republics or progress on setting a withdrawal timetable.

It also linked aid to "substantive" U.S.-Russian talks on reducing Russian exports of sophisticated military equipment to Iran but would allow aid to Russia to go forward anyway if the president said it was in U.S. interests.

The bill provided \$12.3 billion increase in the U.S. quota for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is helping Russia to reform its economy. The House of Representatives passed the bill by a 312-105 vote and the Senate adopted it without a formal vote.

Israel had sought the loan guarantees to raise funds for the resettlement of Jewish immigrants — most from the former Soviet Union. But the loan guarantee has been held up for a year by a dispute between the United States and Israel over the former Israeli government's aggressive policy of building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Israel receives most of the direct aid — \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 billion in economic assistance.

Neither the guarantees nor the IMF quota involved budget outlays under the bill, which provided \$13.9 billion for foreign aid programmes in the year that started Oct. 1.

The fiscal bill dropped two provisions that had threatened to provide a presidential veto — a \$20 million payment to the United Nations Population Fund and

the lifting of a ban on aid to family planning organisations that discuss abortion.

Also in the bill: — \$35 million to help refugees in the former Yugoslav republics and \$20 million in fuel, dairy and grain products for Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Kosovo. The bill also authorises \$50 million military aid to Bosnia if a United Nations arms embargo is lifted.

— A ban on military training aid to Indonesia because of human rights abuses in East Timor. — \$50 million for a Latin America debt restructuring programme — less than a quarter of the amount requested by the administration — and \$90 million for a Latin American investment fund.

— Military sales financing of \$315 million for Greece, \$450 million for Turkey and \$90 million for Portugal — all in loans instead of partly in grants as the administration had sought.

— A ban on military aid for Jordan in the current fiscal year because of its support for Iraq during the Gulf war.

— A ban on use of aid money to provide incentives for U.S. businesses to relocate abroad at the cost of American jobs.

For Israel, Moody's vote would let the United States in effect co-sign up to \$10 billion in commercial loans over the next five years. The money would be used to create jobs and build housing for hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants.

The action marked an end to a dispute that had soured relations between the allies for more than a year. The way was cleared after Israel elected a new government this summer and promised to restrain settlement in the occupied lands.

Assurance to Israel

The Bush administration has given Israel an open-ended pledge of \$1.8 billion a year in military aid to help balance the sale of 72 top-of-the-line jet fighter planes

to Saudi Arabia, the State Department said Monday.

This virtually guarantees Israel will remain the largest recipient of U.S. military assistance if President Bush wins reelection and Congress agrees with the administration.

The assurance was contained in a letter Acting Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after a meeting here Friday with Zalman Shoval, the Israeli ambassador.

Israel also receives \$1.2 billion in economic assistance from the United States annually.

President Bush approved the \$9 billion sale in F-15 jet fighters to Saudi Arabia last month in an election-year decision that guaranteed jobs for about 7,000 workers at the McDonnell Douglas Corp. factory in St. Louis.

He pledged at the same time to maintain Israel's military edge over any combination of Arab adversaries.

The administration agreed on Sept. 26 to send 24 Apache AH-64 and Blackhawk UH-60 helicopters and Harpoon missiles to Israel next year. The helicopters are for use as defensive weapons.

Previously, the Pentagon agreed to transfer 10 F-15A, air craft worth \$45 million to Israel.

Richard A. Boucher, the State Department spokesman, said Monday that Mr. Eagleburger had written to Mr. Rabin "to underscore the United States' commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative edge. In addition to the measures that were announced by the White House on Sept. 26, the acting secretary expressed our intention to maintain, subject to the approval of Congress, an overall foreign assistance budget level, the current levels of security assistance to Israel."

All but \$475 million of the \$1.8 billion in U.S. military aid must be spent in the United States. In that way, the money guarantees American jobs much like the sale of the jets to Saudi Arabia.

Libya calls for end to sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Libya's foreign minister on Monday appealed to the United Nations to lift economic sanctions on his country, saying they had killed hundreds of Libyans and cost the economy over \$2 billion.

Oil exports were down 44 per cent, said Ibrahim Al Bishari, Libya's foreign minister.

"My country would like from this rostrum to call upon this international organisation and the Security Council, out of respect for the principles of justice, to lift the sanctions," Mr. Bishari said.

The Security Council clamped air travel, arms and diplomatic sanctions on Libya effective April 15 for refusing to surrender two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people in December 1988.

Two Libyans suspected of planting the bomb are wanted by the United States and Britain.

The United Nations also ordered the punishment for Libya's failure to help in investigating four other Libyans suspected of killing 171 people in the bombing of a French jetliner over Africa a year later.

Mr. Bishari, in his speech to the General Assembly, said the air travel ban had caused the deaths of "a great number" of children and pregnant women who died in labour due to shortages of medicines. He did not give exact figures.

Many medicines are fragile or deteriorate quickly, so they need to be flown in.

He said that more than 3,000 severely ill patients who needed heart surgery, burn treatment, leprosy or bone marrow transplants could not be flown overseas for treatment.

In addition, 150 patients died while they were being transported overseas to Libya to receive treatment in foreign countries, he said.

Under the Security Council ban on airline travel, people must go overland to Cairo or to a ferry to Malta.

The heaviest traffic on Libya's highways, Mr. Bishari said, had caused 139 additional deaths.

Over a four-month period in 1992, under sanctions, there were 3,788 traffic accidents that killed 528 people, Mr. Bishari said.

During the same four months in 1991, when Libya was not under sanctions, 2,401 accidents killed 389 people.

In addition, the Libyan economy had lost \$2.157 billion mainly due to losses of exports, primarily fruits and vegetables. Oil exports were down 44 per cent, he said.

Oil sales accounted for 90 per cent of Libya's export income before the sanctions. Libya had produced 1.5 million barrels daily and exported 1.4 million, mainly to Italy and Germany.

Italy imports 28 per cent of its crude from Libya, and with Germany accounted for more than \$4 billion of the nearly \$12 billion in Libyan sales to the European Community in 1990.

Libya and the Security Council are still at a stalemate over the extradition of the two Lockerbie suspects and the lifting of sanctions.

Last week, Colonel Muammar Qaddafi insisted again that the suspects be tried only in Libya.

U.S. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they are satisfied with the current sanctions regime on Libya, and are not planning to tighten them.

The next Security Council review of the Libyan sanctions situation is scheduled for mid-December.

Iraqi guerrillas fight Turkey's rebel Kurds

ANKARA (R) — Thousands of Iraqi Kurds are fighting to expel rebel Turkish Kurds from northern Iraq, an Iraqi guerrilla spokesman was quoted as saying Tuesday.

Serehil Qazzaz, representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), told the semi-official Anatolian news agency that major clashes were taking place but gave no casualty figure.

He said some 6,000 Iraqi guerrillas were fighting up to 3,000 rebels of the separatist Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) who have been using northern Iraq as a springboard for cross-border raids into Turkey.

Fighting was centred in the Hakurk region near where Turkey's borders with Iran and Iraq converge, Mr. Qazzaz said.

Earlier this year Turkey launched several air strikes against what it said was a major PKK camp in Hakurk.

Mr. Qazzaz told Reuters Monday that the 105-member Kurdish parliament in northern Iraq, elected in May, had voted on Sunday to take action against the PKK.

"They (the PKK) have been

given ultimatums several times, but they never keep their promises to move out of the area, so parliament has decided they will be kicked out by force," Mr. Qazzaz said.

Iraqi guerrillas accuse the PKK, fighting for an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey, of preventing Iraqi Kurds from resettling border villages.

Safwan Dizayee, representative of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the other main Iraqi guerrilla group, told Anatolia that about 10,000 Iraqi Kurds were fighting the PKK.

He said serious fighting had taken place near Haftamin to the west of Hakurk and at Bazya, a settlement north of Bazran.

"The real fighting will start today," he said, without elaborating.

In Turkey, 10 people died in overnight incidents in the Kurdish insurgency, Anatolia news agency said.

PKK rebels raided haramcuk village in the southeastern province of Kahramanmaraş Monday night, killing six civilians and wounding three others.

In the eastern province of Agri,

a gendarmic lieutenant and a soldier were killed in a mountain clash that began on Monday and was continuing on Tuesday, provincial governor Erdogan Izgi said.

Mr. Izgi said searches on the mountain slopes revealed a PKK mountain hideout big enough to accommodate 500 people and stocked with food, medicine and ammunition, he said. The bodies of two PKK rebels and a civilian were also found there.

Another band of insurgents held up a stretch of a main southeastern highway Monday and shot dead two bus passengers. They fled after setting two vehicles on fire.

In the southern province of Adana, 15 PKK militants attacked a gendarmic post and wounded a soldier, Anatolia said.

Three time bombs believed planted by the rebels exploded late Monday in a railway station waiting room and a courthouse in the eastern town of Tarsus causing damage but no casualties, security officials said.

Police defused two more time bombs found early Tuesday in the town's tax and post offices.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in Turkey in the PKK's eight-year-old armed fight for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast.

3 pro-PKK rebels arrested

A security court has released eight members of a pro-Kurdish Party but ordered three held on charges of disseminating separatist propaganda, officials of the party said Tuesday.

The state security court in Ankara Monday ordered the detention of People's Labour Party (HEP) deputy secretary general Kemal Oktan and Harnam Cakmak and member Abdul Cabbir Gezi while freeing the others, they said.

The HEP members, including former Chairman Feridun Yazar, were detained on Sept. 28 after the court prosecutor pressed charges of separatism based on pro-PKK slogans and speeches made in a party congress.

Mr. Yazar, who was released without charge, denies any direct links between HEP and the PKK.

HEP has 18 deputies in the parliament. None of the 11 who had been arrested held parliament seats.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran pledges support for fight against Israel

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader said Monday that Tehran would spare no support to fundamentalist Muslim Palestinians fighting Israel, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told leaders of the Hamas movement that the "arrogant powers," the Iranian term for the United States and its allies, wanted the world to believe "that Palestine was a closed file and that the Zionist regime was a legal and unchangeable regime," the news agency said. "However, we believe that the issue will continue to remain alive upon the will of Muslims and the Palestinians themselves," Ayatollah Khamenei was quoted as saying. He said Iran "will not spare any support for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people." IRNA said Ayatollah Khamenei told a Hamas delegation visiting Tehran that the creation of the Islamic republic through the overthrow of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi showed "that the annihilation of a regime with an external power and stability is possible." The report said he "called on the oppressed Palestinian people to gain the sovereignty of their country through reliance on the Islamic faith and expel those foreigners from Europe, America, Australia and other parts of the world who have formed a government there."

Uganda denies helping Sudan rebels

KAMPALA (R) — The Ugandan government Tuesday denied allegations by Sudan that it was massing troops to support rebels battling for control of southern Sudan. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said a formal denial had been handed to the Sudanese embassy in Kampala, adding "there is no truth in these allegations." The Sudanese protest said 3,500 Ugandan troops had gathered near Kitgum, northern Uganda, to back rebel attempts to recapture territory lost following a Sudanese army offensive. The spokesman said the Khartoum protest even listed names of officers it said were involved but the names did not correspond to anyone in the Ugandan army. He said Uganda had repeatedly said it wanted good relations with the Khartoum government and complained that Uganda had several times been bombed by Sudanese aircraft pursuing the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA). "It would be ironic to undermine that commitment by supporting the SPLA," the spokesman said. Uganda borders southern Sudan, where the SPLA has waged an eight-year war against the government and is now running a hit-and-run campaign following the Khartoum army's capture of a string of key towns. The Sudanese weekly newspaper Darfur Al Jedida said Saturday the Ugandan ambassador in Khartoum, Othman Gama, had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry last Thursday and handed a protest note over Kampala providing technical, logistical and moral support for the SPLA. Sudan has previously accused Uganda of backing the SPLA, which has been waging war against the Khartoum government since 1983, but these charges have died down in the last few months.

Two killed in blast on Egyptian train

ASSIUT, Egypt (R) — Two people were killed and 10 injured Tuesday when a bomb exploded on a train passing through Dayrut, a southern Egyptian town which has seen months of violence between Muslim militants and police. Security sources said the bomb exploded in the third carriage of the train either just before or just after it stopped at Dayrut's heavily-guarded railway station around dawn. It was not clear whether the train itself was a target or whether someone on board had been trying to throw the bomb into the station. Last month a bomb was thrown from a train passing through Dayrut at a police post near the station. The security sources said the dead and injured on Tuesday were all Egyptian. They said three of the injured had been taken to hospital and the rest given first aid at the station. Violence involving militants in Al Gama's Al Islamiya (the Islamic group) has surged this year in Egypt and more than 60 people have been killed, most of them in towns and villages near Assiut. Gama's members have shot dead members of the security forces, Christians and a prominent secular writer. Security forces have killed Gama's members and both sides have killed passengers by accident.

Turkey, Iran plan to boost trade

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Iran have agreed to raise their bilateral trade volume to over \$1 billion, Turkey's state minister Mehmet Battali said. "Our trade volume which was running at \$1.2 billion before the Iran-Iraq and Gulf wars fell to \$250 to \$300 million ... we have come to an agreement to increase our trade volume to over \$1 billion," Battali told Anatolia news agency after a five-day visit to Iran Monday. Trade between the two countries fell to \$578 million last year from \$1.9 billion in 1987. Turkey, which imported 382,400 tonnes of oil from Tehran last year, earlier said it would buy three million tonnes of Iranian crude in 1992. Iran was Turkey's second biggest oil supplier in 1990. Relations between Ankara and Tehran cooled in September when Turkey accused Iran of allowing the presence of separatist Kurdish guerrillas on Iranian territory. Iran and Turkey signed a protocol last month to boost border security and fight "terrorist" activities.

Moroccan activist held in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian security forces have arrested a Moroccan, aged 22, said to be a member of the armed Islamic movement, Algerian radio and newspapers said. They said Zerrouti Abdul Ghani, from Sefrou, had confessed to taking part in attacks on an Algerian policeman and an official and to have acted as a link man between different armed groups. Abdul Ghani was arrested late last week in Maghnia, west Algeria. The movement, believed to have been formed in 1982, is one of a dozen or so clandestine fundamentalist groups operating in Algeria.

Israelis asked to present damage claims

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Justice Ministry Tuesday began the process of seeking compensation from Iraq for damages caused by Iraqi Scud missile attacks during the Gulf war. The ministry published advertisements in Israeli newspapers urging citizens to file claims for damages from the 39 Scuds that hit the Jewish state. The money will be claimed through a special fund set up by U.N. Security Council Resolution 687 and funded by proceeds from Iraqi oil sales. Iraq so far has refused to sell oil under the system, saying conditions set by the United Nations violate its sovereignty. The ministry said claims must deal with "direct bodily damage or damage to property as a result of a missile hit." The ministry asked Israelis to file claims by Dec. 31 to the government for forward to the United Nations. Israel sustained millions of dollars in damage during the Gulf crisis, which began on Aug. 2, 1990, with Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Two people were killed in the Scud attacks and several others died from misuse of gas masks or heart attacks. Dozens were injured, and hundreds of houses, apartments and shops were damaged.

Tehran unimpressed by Kuwaiti polls

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper Tuesday blasted Kuwait for denying women the right to vote and said parliamentary elections in the conservative sheikhdom could be just an attempt to build a facade of democracy. "If the Kuwaiti government wants to put up a show and establish a parliament devoid of true legislative power or the right to monitor the proceedings of the executive power, then it can only be a sham," the pro-government Tehran Times said in an editorial about Monday's polls in Kuwait. The paper, quoted by Iran's IRNA news agency, said it would be a "base motive" for Kuwait to have organised the elections under foreign pressure just to gain "civil legitimacy." The United States, which led Western and Arab allies in liberating Kuwait in last year's Gulf war after seven months of Iraqi occupation, made clear it wanted a degree of liberalisation in the traditional rule of Kuwait's Al Sabah family. The English-language Tehran Times said denying women the right to vote and get elected was an insult to Islam. Kuwaiti rulers did not realise that "the modern world tends to judge the holy religion of Islam using the yardstick of the tribal, patriarchal culture of some Arab countries," it said. Iranian women have had the right to vote since the early 1960s. Nine women were elected to the 270-seat parliament in elections earlier this year.

Christians criticise missionaries

NICOSIA (AP) — Christian Middle East church leaders complained Monday that Western missionaries were insensitive to the peoples and issues of the region where the religion began almost 2,000 years ago.

That is the main theme of a special conference convened by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) and Evangelicals for Middle East Understanding (EMEUE) a group of mainly American missionaries.

"We want to pass the message to the West that there has been a church in the Middle East since pre-Christianity," EMEUE Chairman Ray Bakke said in opening remarks.

"U.S. foreign policy has made things very difficult for you, and Western Evangelicals are responsible for this," Mr. Bakke added, addressing the 30-odd Middle East church leaders at the meeting also attended by more than 60 Western Evangelical leaders.

"There is a general perception in the United States about the Middle East, that all Arabs are fat and greedy or terrorists ... we say this is not so, and we are trying to communicate that through the EMEUE," Mr. Bakke added.

Judge in Iraq loan scandal slams Washington, BNL

ATLANTA (R) — A judge Monday urged an independent investigation of a scandal involving \$5 billion in loans to Iraq before the Gulf war, saying the U.S. government was trying to limit criticism of a "failed foreign policy."

In an order obtained by Reuters, Federal Judge Marvin Shoob was strongly critical of the government's investigation and said Washington was trying to shield Italian officials from being implicated in the Iraqi loan scandal.

He also concluded that executives of Italian state-owned Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) approved huge loans to Iraq made by their Atlanta branch from 1985-89 despite U.S. prosecutors' claims that the bank was a "victim."

The judge's strongly-worded 15-page order, to be filed with the court Tuesday, came after a hearing earlier in the day in which he denied bail for Christopher Drogoul, former manager of BNL's Atlanta branch.

He is charged with defrauding the Italian bank and the U.S. government over the Iraqi loans.

His order is the latest embarrassment for Washington from the scandal, which has become the focus of criticism for months by senior congressional Democrats.

During hearings in Atlanta's District Court the past three weeks, U.S. prosecutors were accused by defence lawyers of

trying to use Mr. Drogoul to shield BNL and the Rome government.

The case has raised new questions about the Bush administration's ties to Iraq before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait since loans approved by BNL-Atlanta apparently helped finance Baghdad's military machine.

"It is apparent that decisions were made at the top levels of the (U.S. government) ... and within the intelligence community to shape this case," the judge said, adding "information may have been withheld from local prosecutors" by the federal government.

He urged an independent investigation and said Attorney General Robert Barr's rejection of such a special prosecutor "in itself raised concerns for the court about the government's impartiality in handling this case."

The judge urged a postponement of the trial of Mr. Drogoul and sentencing for former aides at BNL's Atlanta branch who pleaded guilty.

This, he said, would allow the government to make a full investigation instead of continuing "with the prosecution's acceptance of BNL-Rome's version that BNL is a victim to avoid embarrassing a foreign government or to contain criticism of a failed foreign policy."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:30	Documentary
18:30	La Famille Ramdan
19:00	News in French
19:15	Inter-tropique
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Wednesday forum
21:30	Chiedo
22:30	News in English
22:30	Bangkok Hilton
PRAYER TIMES	
04:11	Fajr
05:28	Ascension of God Church, Tel. 637825
11:24	Dhuhr
14:05	'Asr
17:21	Maghreb
18:39	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740	
Assassins of God Church, Tel. 637825	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683336	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and dry and winds will be easterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, it will be dusty and winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	17/31
Aqaba	22/37
Dozari	11/24
Jordan Valley	18/36
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings:	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 15 per cent.	
NIGHT DUTY	
Dr. Fakhri Taher	883880
Dr. Bahjat Badir	849362
Dr. Farouk Noor	786880
Dr. Zain Zaglou	638591
Fines pharmacy	661912
Perdous pharmacy	778336
Al Azem pharmacy	637085
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yasoub pharmacy	644945
St. Joseph pharmacy	637680
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	661176
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
First Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	664174
Traffic Police	696390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	891467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	
(directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Reprints	623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Munab pharmacy	
32170	
SALT:	
Dr. Abdul Rahim Hadidi	(-)
Bar's pharmacy	(-)

Radio Jordan	774111	IBRD:	
Water Authority	680700	Princess Beulah Hospital	(02)225555
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615	Great Catholic Hospital	(02)227275
Electric Power		Am Al Nafies Hospital	(02)247100
Company	636381	AQABA:	
RT Flight Information	06-5330	Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	06-53200		

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	313813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Aklich Maternity, J. Amn	640441/2
Jobran Maternity	642525
Mulham, J. Amman	633140
Palestine, Shamsiari	664171/4
Stampanian Hospital	669731
Jordanian Hospital	669745
Al-Musaber Hospital	667227/5
The Islamic, Abadi	656127/7
Al-Ahli, Abadi	664146
Indian, Al-Mubajja	777012/3
Al-Basir, J. Azraqah	775112/6
Army, Madinet	821611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amman Hospital	674135

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)98332
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900580
Ibn Sin Hospital	(09)98732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:58	Aden (RJ)
07:08	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:38	Jeddah (RJ)
07:48	Larnaca (RJ)
08:38	Damascus (RJ)
08:58	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
09:29	Madrid (RJ)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Tawjihi fees set at JD 20

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers has decided to set the tawjihi examination fees at JD 20 for regular students and JD 25 for irregular students, according to the official gazette. The gazette said students who pay the fees and pass the exam will be entitled to receive a passing certificate in Arabic and English. An official at the Ministry of Education called on all schools in the Kingdom Tuesday to abide by the Cabinet's decision and not receive any extra fees for the examination.

Suheimat visits Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat Tuesday visited Aqaba Region Authority where he was briefed by its President Bassam Qaqish on its projects and future plans. Mr. Suheimat discussed with Mr. Qaqish facilities given to companies investing in touristic projects on the southern shore of Aqaba and industrial and touristic projects in the city free zone.

Tubelshat, Italian envoy discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Razzaq Tubelshat met Tuesday with Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romaldo Bettini and discussed with him scope of cooperation between Jordan and Italy in combating environmental pollution. Discussion at the meeting also centred on benefiting from Italian expertise in disposing of solid and liquid waste. Mr. Bettini expressed his country's readiness to cooperate with Jordan in this field.

Jordan, Iran hold religious talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ahmad Hlayel Tuesday received a visiting Iranian delegation headed by Director of Al Al Bait Foundation in Iran Sheikh Jawad Shahar Stani. Dr. Hlayel stressed that Jordanian-Iranian relations are based on mutual respect and appreciation. The meeting which was attended by the Iranian chargé d'affaires in Amman reviewed the role and duties of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. Head of the Iranian delegation extended to Dr. Hlayel an official invitation to visit Iran.

Irbid to hold agricultural fair

IRBID (Petra) — As part of the Kingdom's ongoing celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's safe return home, Irbid governorate is preparing for holding an agricultural fair at Al Hassan Youth City. The fair, which will be opened Oct. 14, aims to acquaint citizens and businessmen with the governorate's agricultural produce.

RSS holds seminar on computer sciences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society's (RSS) Computer Technology, Training and Industrial Studies Centre Tuesday organised in cooperation with the Japanese Foundation for International Cooperation a seminar on computer technology. The one-day seminar discussed issues pertaining to computer sciences teaching and training, scientific research in Japan, the future of information technologies and controlling the quality of computer production.

CDD donates JD 1,000 to cancer centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence Department (CDD) announced Tuesday that it was donating JD 1,000 to Al Amal Cancer Centre projects in Amman. The CDD's contribution comes in response to a call by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who heads a national team entrusted with establishing the centre. The committee Friday stated a week-long campaign aiming at raising funds for establishing the centre.

Spanish envoy to open art exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Spanish ambassador to Jordan Juan Cabrera will open on Oct. 14 an art exhibition by Jordanian artist Khalid Jiryis at the Spanish Cultural Centre. The two-week exhibition will include 30 watercolour and ink paintings depicting social and cultural issues.

Garden Club to hold cultural event

AMMAN (Petra) — The Garden and Home Club will Wednesday organise a poetry recital by Omar Al Farra at the Amman Plaza Hotel. The proceeds of the recital will go to supporting Al Amal Cancer Centre project. Club Counsellor Jackie Fakhrouri said efforts of all Jordanians are needed to establish the centre and expressed hope that everyone will support a week-long fund raising campaign for it.

Arab lawyers to review situation in Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — An extraordinary session of the Arab Lawyers Union will be held in Amman on Oct. 15 and 16 to discuss the situation in Iraq.

Jordan, Canada seek cooperation in education

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tom Norton, president of the Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC) is currently on a short visit to Jordan to hold talks with senior government officials on possible areas of cooperation between Canada's community college system and Jordan's higher education authorities. The ACCC represents 160 colleges and technical institutions throughout Canada.

During his visit, Mr. Norton is expected to announce a \$550,000 (about JD 340,000) grant from Canada to assist in developing a learning disabilities programme at the Princess Sarvath Community College.

Israeli Arab delegation visits Petra

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from Palestinian lands occupied since 1948 Tuesday visited the ancient Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan. The delegation members, who came to the Kingdom to offer congratulations to His Majesty King Hussein on his recovery later visited the sites of burial places of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad.

Contracts for vocational training centres signed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Tuesday signed a contract with the Housing and Urban Development Department for the construction of a training centre in Zarqa and another in Irbid. The Zarqa project, to be set up on 800 square metre plot, and the Irbid project, to be set up on a 2000 square metre land, will together cost JD 200,000. The work will be completed in 18 months.

Sahab Industrial Estate

No 'white elephant'

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — When plans for Sahab Industrial Estate (SIE) were conceived more than a decade ago, Jordanians and foreign lenders thought the industrial park would be "the white elephant" of government projects.

But the 255-hectare site in what was then the boondocks of Amman, is now barely able to keep up with the demand for space.

The self-contained "town" of 253 firms, 7,300 workers and scores of banks, clinics, labour offices, and modest restaurants is to be fully occupied within three to four years and new sites are being researched.

"When the European Community saw the plans for the Sahab Industrial Estate, we thought it looked like it was going to be another white elephant," Robert Wilson, head of the Mediterranean Department Division of the European Investment Bank (EIB), said Monday.

Eight years after the nuts and bolts of infrastructure were laid down, SIE enters its third and final expansion phase, covering 620 dunams of land, of which 25 per cent is already allocated to new firms. One hundred and thirty factories will be built, according to Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Director General Fayez Suheimat.

"The estate provides everything firms need to operate," Mr. Suheimat said in a briefing to a visiting delegation of the EC committee for Mediterranean countries.

The 12-member team, which arrived in Amman Sunday, is reviewing EC-sponsored projects throughout Jordan, recipient of

more than ecu 200 million (JD 166 million) in loans and grants since 1977, when Jordan signed a cooperation agreement with the European partners.

For the JD6 million third phase of the estate, EIB is providing ecu 3 million (about JD2.5 million) loan, part of the total ecu 38 million the community has funneled into the industrial park project since 1981.

"Our aim is to see if (JIEC) can fly on their own wings. It seems they can," said EC representative Michele Valentini.

Mr. Suheimat says he hopes the JIEC, established by the government in 1979 to help expand Jordan's industrial base, will use the industrial estate as a model for other, smaller industrial parks planned for Salt, Karak and Aqaba.

JIEC, which is 67.5 per cent government owned, acts somewhat like a municipality, providing firms with electricity, sewage, collection and water. Of JIEC's estimated JD2 million annual earnings, about 15 to 20 per cent come from "services, priced at municipality rates."

"Firms save at least 50 per cent of their operation costs by setting up here. The estate is also more convenient and has banks, post offices and departments and training centres," Mr. Suheimat said.

Of the 253 firms, about 35 are owned by non-Jordanians, ranging from Iraqi, to Taiwanese, to Sweden. About 80 companies are export-orientated.

One rug factory visited Monday, for example, produces 3 million square metres of rugs a year, shipping them to North Africa, Russia and the U.K. with earnings of JD 5 to 6 million a year.



Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi

Conference debates art of preaching

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Tamimi, Tuesday, opened a conference on preaching, saying the Friday mosque sermons should be interesting and full of life rather than pessimistic and boring.

The two-day conference has been organised by the Faculty of Islamic Law at the University of Jordan.

"A preacher at the mosque should address the audience with clear and well-understood ideas and words as he plays a major role in promoting religious life in Muslim societies," said Sheikh Tamimi.

Yassin Daradkeh, Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Law, said that a Friday sermon should aim to solve peoples' problems and preachers ought to tackle specific areas where help is often needed.

Several working papers will be presented for discussion. They range from the definition of sermons, the best method of preparing a sermon, personalities of successful preachers, and the relationship between the media and preachers.

Student faces court case unless JD 12,000 medical fees are secured

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 25-year-old community college student who last March sustained severe injuries in a road accident is facing the dilemma of either paying for his prolonged medical treatment at the Jordan University Hospital — a sum of JD 12,000, or facing legal action in court.

"I am not responsible for the accident (which involved two public transport buses on the university road last March) and I cannot pay this extortionate cost," said Nader Saoud in a telephone conversation with the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Speaking from his hospital room, Mr. Saoud said that despite the prolonged treatment and the physiotherapy sessions, he was still unable to walk properly, even with a walking stick. He said he was in no position to

lobby for his case with various government departments.

"I have left this task to my father who came from the West Bank and is staying in Amman to help find a solution for my case," he said.

Mr. Saoud claimed that his father had called at the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) to ask for compensations to pay part or all of the required hospital bill but had no response.

According to Mr. Suleiman Hababbeh, the PTC Director General, however, JD 2,000 were raised for Mr. Saoud in the insurance companies, and the Union of Mechanics and Land Transport Workers was raising more funds in order to help solve the case.

Mr. Saoud said, however, that he had ensured 30 per cent of the cost from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and

another 30 per cent had been promised by the Popular Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Intifada.

Both Mr. Saoud and his father claimed that the hospital management had prevented them from leaving the premises without paying the bill. This was denied by the management.

Hospital Director, Samih Abul Ragheh, said that Mr. Saoud can leave the hospital any time. He went on to say that the hospital had actually tried to discharge him and his father who has taken a room in the hospital.

Mr. Ragheh said that hospital rules do not allow the management to strike off an unpaid bill and require all such cases to be referred to a court.

Mr. Saoud said that some of his friends raising campaign to help pay for the hospital bill.

Flood of political parties has yet to arrive

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Applications presented to the Ministry of Interior for the registration of political parties have almost come to a standstill, only five days after the Political Parties Registration Department officially opened its doors.

As few as six political groups have so far submitted their registration applications despite estimates by political observers who expected up to 60 groups. A number of parties are apparently forming coalitions in order to strengthen their numerical and popular base before applying.

Other parties, particularly leftists are reviewing the police records of their founders. According to the Political Parties Law,

passed by Parliament in July and given a final stamp of approval by a Royal Decree on Sept. 1, founding members must not have a prison record.

In the case of former political detainees and prisoners, however, the rule does not apply.

Documentation must be shown to prove that founders' prison convictions were on political grounds and not criminal and this is causing some groups a delay.

"We have most of our papers in order but are just waiting for some final documentation which will clear some of our founding members of any criminal charges," said Azmi Khawaja, who heads the leftist Jordan Popular Unity Party and was himself a former political detainee.

"Many of our founding members have spent time in prison in

the past on political grounds," he said.

Another left-wing group, an offshoot of the Jordanian Communist Party which is headed by Lower House of Parliament Deputy Issa Madanat has officially changed its name to the Jordan Democratic Socialist party.

Both groups hope to apply for official party status within the next two weeks, party officials said.

The latest political group to apply for registration was the conservative Al Ahd Party, headed by retired Brigadier General Abdul Hadi Al Majali. The group has the largest number of founding members to date (205). Al Ahd, considered to be a conglomerate of conservative and tribal leaders, will serve as a forum for right-of-centre political thought.

International Housing and Habitat Day marked

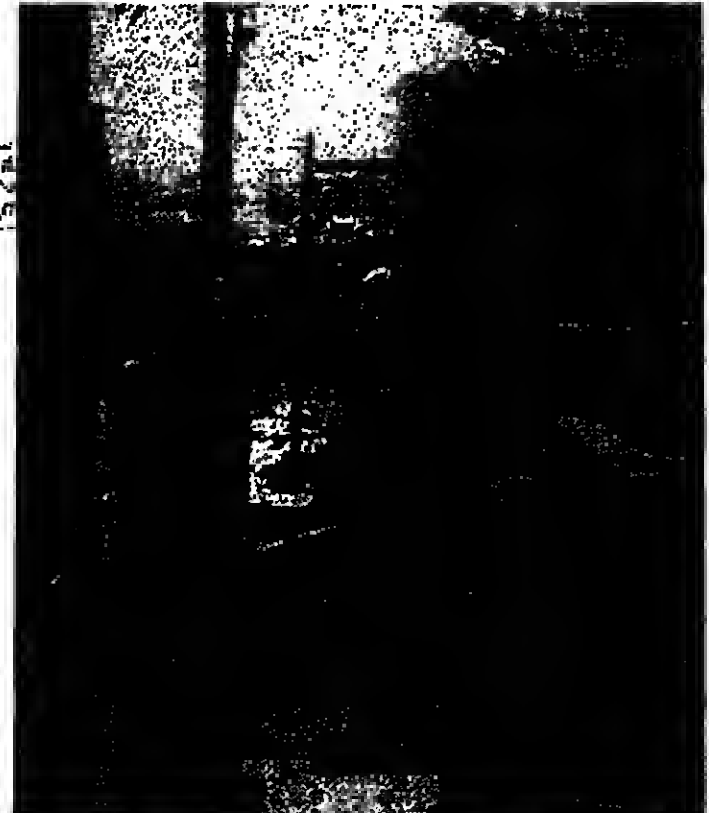
Jordan wins awards

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special ceremony Tuesday organised by the Housing and Development Department (HDD) at the International Hotel marked the World and Arab Housing and Habitat Day which promotes the housing of homeless families and improving living conditions of the poor.

The ceremony, attended by Minister of Public Works and Housing, Saad Hayel Al Sror, and HDD Director, General Yousef Hiyasat, was of special significance to Jordan as the Kingdom this year received a number of awards for housing projects and architecture.

In March, Jordan received the Aga Khan Architecture Award 1992 for a housing project at Al Wihdat area in Amman. The project provides homes, sanitation, electricity, roads and schools to 5,000 Palestinian Refugees.

A second award for the same project was presented at the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) in New York, Tuesday to Jordan's ambassador to the U.N. Adnan Abn Odeh, by U.N. Secretary General, Boutros Boutros Ghali.



AWARD-WINNING PROJECT: A housing estate for Palestinian refugees in east Amman is among nine development projects to win the 1992 Aga Khan Architectural Award

Jordan, Oman sign cultural agreement

MUSCAT (Petra) — Jordan and Oman Tuesday signed an agreement to promote cultural exchanges and cooperation after a successful Jordanian cultural week held in Oman.

Minister of Culture, Mahmoud Al Samra and Omani Minister of National Heritage and Culture, Faisal Ben Ali Al Saeed signed the agreement at the end of a Jordanian cultural week organised in Muscat.

The two sides agreed to exchange expertise, publications, books and other printed material and to participate in festivals, seminars and other cultural events organised jointly or separately.

The agreement which renews another cultural deal signed by the two countries in 1976, provides for the two countries to exchange expertise in the study of

manuscripts and organise national libraries and exchange expertise in cultural programmes.

Dr. Samra later made a statement in which he described the Jordanian cultural week in Oman as successful. He said the event "won the appreciation and approval of the Omani citizens."

The cultural week was designed to acquaint the Omani people with Jordanian cultural and heritage, he said.

The event, and the success it achieved, underlines the strong bilateral ties between the two countries.

The minister voiced Jordan's gratitude to the Omani government for its help in organising the week.

Dr. Samra and his accompanying delegation met with Thwaini Ben Shahab Al Saeed, the per-

sonal representative of Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed, who voiced appreciation of the Jordanian citizens' contributions towards Oman's development.

Dr. Samra conveyed to Mr. Thwaini, His Majesty King Hussein's greetings to Sultan Qaboos and congratulated Oman for concluding an agreement with neighbouring Yemen on border demarcation.

Union criticises draft traffic law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Union of Mechanics and Land Transport workers has voiced its opposition to the new draft traffic law, saying the proposed legislation was detrimental to the union's interests.

Union President Ibrahim Ajameh said that a board meeting on Tuesday focused its discussions on article 45 of the old law, which was cancelled in the new draft law.

Under article 45 of the old law, all drivers of taxis in Jordan had to produce documents that they were affiliated to the union and they have paid the required annual subscription before renewing their driver licences.

Mr. Ajameh said that the tournament cancelled article 45, but failed to introduce a replacement. That would be detrimental to the union's interests, he said.

The Italian Language Centre (Centro linguistico italiano) (Al Corum) receives the Italian ambassador to Jordan

On Oct. 5, 1992 His Excellency the Italian Ambassador to Jordan Dott. Romaldo Bettini paid a visit to the Italian Language Centre (Centro linguistico italiano) in Jabal Amman, Fifth Circle, 168 and delivered an address welcoming the students and the teaching staff, and thanking them for their affiliation to Italian culture.

The ambassador also congratulated the centre's management on the successful cultural centre which, he said, is a source of pride.

Later the ambassador was briefed by the centre's honorary Director Dott.ssa Matteucci Graziella on the centre's establishment and development.

Sig. Samir AlCorum, the centre's director, had delivered a brief speech expressing the students' and the teaching staff's delight at the visit of the ambassador, who was accompanied by the honorary president and Dott.ssa Loredana Frizzi, head of the teaching staff.



The Italian ambassador during his visit to the centre

WHAT'S GOING ON

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artist Nadeem at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of small paintings by Jordanian artist Ali Al Ghoul at Baladina Art Gallery.
- ★ National industries exhibition which includes electric appliances, carpets, food supplies, chemical detergents, clothes, paints and other items at Al Hassan Sports Stadium in Irbid.
- ★ Exhibition of oils and water colours entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdal Hameed Showman Foundation Gallery — opening ceremony at 6 p.m.



Arafat urges consolidated Arab stand

(Continued from page 1)

Speaker Abdul Hamid Sayeh headed the Palestinian delegation which greeted Mr. Arafat.

A warm hug as 21 cannon shots rang out welcome, and a full-scale honour at Marka Military Airport marked the first such welcome of Mr. Arafat in Jordan.

Flying aboard an unmarked jet, Mr. Arafat was dressed in his traditional military fatigues. Sporting a pistol on his right hip, the Palestinian leader told reporters that the main purpose of his visit was to congratulate "not only the Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab peoples but the entire region on His Majesty's speedy recovery."

Mr. Arafat's visit to Amman almost two weeks after His Majesty's return following a five-week absence abroad, during which he underwent surgery at an American hospital, was the first opportunity the two leaders had

to discuss Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the Middle East peace process after the end of the sixth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks but ahead of the seventh round which begins in Washington on Oct. 21.

"We discussed unity and means to consolidate a united Arab position vis-a-vis the peace talks,"

Mr. Arafat told Jordan Television after the first round of talks. Bilateral relations and Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation on political issues were also discussed.

Jordanian and Palestinian officials have repeatedly stressed the need for cooperation among Arab parties to the peace talks and the need for a common and united strategy.

Mr. Arafat flies to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad today.

Gulf states mediate in Saudi-Qatari row

(Continued from page 1)

Qatar has said that Saudi Arabia contravened the agreement by unilaterally deciding where the border lay. Saudi Arabia said Qatar's statement was completely unfounded.

Qatar charges that Saudi troops attacked its Khofouf border post, killing two men and capturing a third and then came

back the next day to drive out the post's remaining occupants.

Saudi Arabia denied its troops were involved and said nomadic bedouins from the two countries exchanged fire on Saudi soil. It confirmed that two Qataris were killed in the exchange, and also said one Saudi was killed and another injured.

PLO chairman meets PFLP leader

(Continued from page 1)

Neither the PFLP nor the DFLP are expected to join the negotiations, as other Palestinian groups have done. But Mr. Arafat will attempt to tone down the "two groups" talk of "defeating the autonomy plan" that is being discussed between Israelis and Palestinians in the peace talks.

The two groups formed a "joint command" last month aimed at thwarting the negotiations. The groups said that increased military operations against Israel in the occupied territories and a national referendum among Palestinians would be among the tools to halt the direction that the peace talks

were taking. The joint command charged that the negotiating team had violated the minimum negotiating positions that were accorded to them by consensus of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile.

The joint command also charged that the PLO leadership had sanctioned the positions that the negotiating team were taking. A Palestine Central Council meeting is planned for later this month in Tunis where Palestinian negotiators are expected to brief the council on the negotiations and ask the mini-parliament to approve the continuation of the negotiations.

Palestinian detainees on strike

(Continued from page 1)

Ali Ghuzlan, a lawyer for some prisoners, said Mr. Shahal would probably meet him on Thursday to discuss the strike.

The fast has triggered daily vigils by anxious relatives, demonstrations and solidarity meetings with local leaders and Palestinian negotiators to peace talks.

Several Palestinians have been shot and wounded during clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Hundreds of Palestinians in Nablis set tyres ablaze and clashed with soldiers after rumours that at least one of 1,100 strikers had died in a local prison. Mr. Ghuzlan said no prisoners had died but reported several were taken to prison clinics for

treatment after collapsing. Several prisoners in Gaza central prison also collapsed, lawyers said. Israel sealed itself and the occupied territories off from the world Tuesday for the Yom Kippur (day of atonement) fast.

The Jewish state came to a halt as a siren wailed at sunset to mark the holiest day for Jews who ask God's forgiveness by fasting and almost non-stop prayer for 25 hours.

Soldiers and police prevented Palestinians of the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem from entering Israel for 48 hours from Tuesday.

The closure is a standard security measure on major Jewish holidays when religious Israelis gather to worship and army strength if reduced by leave.

Reformists sweep Kuwaiti elections

(Continued from page 1)

ministers on their involvement in the Manakha stock market scandal.

At the height of the Iraqi occupation, when all Kuwaitis rallied behind him in exile, the emir promised to hold elections. But after liberation, the reluctant emir had to be prodded by the Americans as well as growing opposition movements to set the date.

In the meantime, the priorities for the ruling family have been to restore the flow of oil money to pay for liberation, reconstruction and to grease the palms of their supporters as well as to kick out hundreds of thousands of unde-

sirable elements — mainly Palestinians and Jordanians.

One element that does unite the groups which won the elections is a quest to ensure that in the future the emir should not be able to dissolve parliament with a flick of a pen.

They are optimistic now that with such a strong mandate from the people for democracy and under the watchful eye of the Americans, he simply will not dare. Without going as far as to predict civil strife, a highly respected member of the Kuwait business community warns that the emirate is awash with weapons — again, like the elections, a legacy of the Gulf crisis.

New U.S. envoy

optimistic over Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — John J. Maresca, the new U.S. State Department coordinator for Cyprus, arrived Tuesday saying he was optimistic about the outcome of the next round of peace talks on the war-divided island. But his arrival coincided with fresh tension sparked by a Turkish Cypriot move to occupy buildings in the deserted Greek Cypriot sector of Famagusta in violation of U.N. resolutions.

Addressing newsmen just before his first meeting with Mr. Maresca, President George Vassiliou said he would protest the

Turkish Cypriot action to the U.S. envoy. "This will be the first thing I will raise with him and we will also take all necessary diplomatic steps in view of this new provocation," Mr. Vassiliou added.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said Monday that a number of buildings in the Greek sector of Famagusta would be taken over for use as student hostels. "I am prepared to face the United Nations over this issue," Mr. Denktaş was quoted as saying by Turkish Cypriot newspapers Tuesday.

Witness retracts testimony

(Continued from page 1)

third defendant had confessed to the plot (the Jordan Times, in an inadvertent error, reported Tuesday that the prosecution said that the group plotted "rocket" attacks against the missions. The seized weapons did not include rockets or rocket launchers).

Mr. Shbeilat's chief lawyer, Ibrahim Bakr, objected to the prosecution's assertion, particularly that related to the U.S. embassy. "It contradicts the charges against my client that he was sending information about Iraq and the Ameriyeh shelter," Mr. Bakr told the court, referring to an Iraqi shelter bombed by the U.S. Air Force during the Gulf war, and which killed hundreds of civilians. One of the charges against Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash is attempts to undermine Jordanian-Israeli relations.

After a ten-minute recess, the court also overruled a request by Mr. Bakr to restrict journalists from reporting on the case. Mr. Bakr complained that the coverage of the trial on Jordan Television was unfair and that the press, especially the official media, was mobilising support against his client, Mr. Shbeilat. Presiding Judge Lieutenant-Colonel Yusef Fawzi said that the court would not interfere with the media, but recommended objective reporting on the case.

Meanwhile, the turnaround by prosecution witness Mohammad Moghrabi appeared to have taken the prosecution as well as defence by surprise.

Mr. Moghrabi, who is serving a 15-year sentence for spying for Israel, was called by the prosecution apparently to testify under oath that deputies Shbeilat and Qarash were leaders of an "Islamic Liberation Front."

But Mr. Moghrabi, who has been convicted of being a member of the shadowy group, told the court that he had lied to Maj. Hijazi when he made statements

to this effect during the investigations.

"I lied because of a promise that my sentence would be reduced from 15 years to 10 years," Mr. Moghrabi told the court when asked by Lieutenant-Colonel Fawzi whether he had made the statements which were read out in court by Maj. Hijazi.

The thin, tired-looking witness did not say who made the "promise" or why he changed his mind in court.

Mr. Moghrabi, who is serving the fourth year of his sentence, was immediately ordered removed as a witness and prosecuted for lying. The request was made by the prosecutors, who were visibly shocked by the turn of events.

The court had earlier overruled defence objections to Mr. Moghrabi's testimony on grounds that he was not a credible witness since he was serving term for a capital offence.

Mr. Moghrabi was apparently supposed to have sealed testimonies by two other witnesses linked to the "Islamic Liberation Front" who appeared in court Tuesday.

The prosecution sought to prove that Mr. Shbeilat and Mr. Qarash were linked with Islamic armed groups in the region funded by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The pro-Iranian Hizbollah was also named as one of the groups by a witness.

Former business partners Ziyad Abu Meizar, who said he was arrested three years ago and now under "military detention" for membership in the front, and Nabil Darwish both testified that Sheikh Qarash had shown interest in supporting such groups.

"Nabil (Darwish) told me that Qarash was prepared to finance (the Islamic Liberation Front) if the organisation was good and strong and that funds could come from Islamic organisations in the Arab World, mainly in Lebanon

and particularly Hizbollah," Mr. Abu Meizar said.

Sheikh Qarash contributed JD 500 to the group as "la wajah Allah" (for the sake of God). Both witnesses testified that the money was used to finance the front.

In addition, Sheikh Qarash also made a proxy, return-free investment of JD 8,500 for a shop in Amman with the "understanding" that profits from the venture would be used to support the group's activities, Mr. Darwish said.

"Qarash said that the funds were from the PLO, or Islamic parties, or from his own pocket," said the witness, an agricultural engineer.

The prosecution's contention that Mr. Shbeilat was linked to the group was inherently supported by the two witnesses' testimony that "company files" belonging to Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarash at a warehouse given to the witnesses for use, but belonging to both deputies.

The long-bearded Darwish, wearing a headscarf and long dabbash, told the court that Mr. Abu Meizar had told him that he refused to marry his sister to Sheikh Qarash because he thought the deputy's father "was working for the (Israeli) enemy."

Mr. Darwish, who said he was never arrested for his role in the Islamic front, testified that he left the organisation after he "discovered that the group was infiltrated with Israeli agents, including Mohammad Moghrabi and Ismail Moghrabi." He said he went to Egypt for medical treatment 20 days after the Moghrabis were arrested and remained there for two years.

Both Moghrabis have been sentenced for spying for Israel. The trial continues Wednesday. The prosecution is expected to present two more witnesses and introduce further evidence before winding up its case by the end of the week.

Search underway for El Al crash bodies

(Continued from page 1)

killed 77 people on the ground and injured 78 seriously in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

The 747-200 slammed into the elbow of the V-shaped building 14 minutes after takeoff. Its pilot had reported one starboard engine on fire six minutes after takeoff and the other starboard engine ablaze six minutes later.

The engines fell into a lake as the pilot dumped fuel and tried to control the plane for an emergency landing. The pilot, the two other crew members and the plane's one passenger all died.

Investigators said it was too early to say why the two engines caught fire. "Our first impression is that it was technical malfunction," said Transportation Minister Hania Maj-Weggen.

Speculation about the cause ranged from engine problems to birds sucked into the huge turbines.

El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said in a statement that the plane was in "excellent mechanical condition." He said the airline would not comment on possible causes before the investigation was complete.

The plane was 13½ years old and underwent routine maintenance last week, officials said.

Fire department crews were draining ponds and ditches near the crash site in their search for the plane's flight recorder and bodies. Mr. Windhagen said 424 policemen, 74 firefighters and three dozen identification experts were searching the apartment building.

Officials said 80 apartments were ripped away altogether and 150 others were heavily damaged. More than 150 families were left homeless.

The European Community announced Tuesday that it would

provide \$1.4 million in food, medicine, shelter and cash for the victims' families.

Late Monday, Seattle-based Boeing issued a service bulletin asking airlines around the world to inspect fuse pins that help connect engines to the wings of 747-200s, -100s and -300s.

The pins are designed to break off and allow an engine to fall if the engine malfunctions.

Boeing cited similarities between Sunday's crash and one last December in which a China Air 747-200 freighter dropped two engines from its right wing shortly after takeoff in Taipei. Five crew members were killed in that crash.

"We have not found any evidence linking these fuse pins to either accident," Boeing spokesman Christopher Villiers said. "This is just a precaution at this point."

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Umm Al Hussein Orphanage

(Mabarrat Umm Al Hussein)

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3	3472	23	4348
4	1566	24	1553
5	6743	25	4210
6	8162	26	2029
7	1532	27	8759
8	3238	28	8430
9	8510	29	8864
10	3025	30	4912
11	7922	31	1213
12	99	32	2485
13	4511	33	3338
14	5087	34	4118
15	1801	35	8170
16	8810	36	3
17	3454	37	1559
18	4205	38	1253
19	2306	39	4947
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Joyner-Kersey, Bradley honoured as Sportswomen of Year

NEW YORK (R) — Athletics star Jackie Joyner-Kersey and golfer Pat Bradley were honoured as the amateur and professional Sportswomen of the Year Monday by the Woman's Sports Foundation.

Polish track and field star Irena Kirszenstein Szewinska and former Soviet figure skater Ludmila Belousova-Protopova were among five others named as new members of the International Women's Hall of Fame at the foundation's 13th annual ceremonies.

Joyner-Kersey successfully defended her 1988 Olympic heptathlon gold medal at Barcelona this year and added a bronze medal in the long jump, which she had won in 1988.

This was the third time the regal American was honoured as Sportswoman of the Year. She

also received the award in 1987 and 1988.

"All I ever wanted to do was give my best, and give my best to the young kids," said Joyner-Kersey, noting the foundation's work aiding young female athletes. "I think with what we as women are trying to do with young people, the best is yet to come."

Bradley needed three tournament victories in September 1991 to hit the 30 mark required to qualify for the LPGA Hall of Fame. She did just that, taking three of the month's five titles to become the 12th member LPGA Hall of Fame.

The American also became the first woman golfer to earn more than \$4 million.

Szewinska won more major titles than any other athlete in track and field. She won Olympic

gold medals in 1968, 1968 and 1976 and also competed in 1972 and 1980.

A former world record-holder in the 100, 200 and 400 metres and with Poland's 4x100 relay team, the tall athlete from Warsaw also took an Olympic silver medal in the long jump. Her total Olympic medal haul was three gold, two silver and two bronze.

"I'm very, very happy for this award," said Szewinska, adding that in her memorable career. "This is one of the most important moments for me."

Protopova and her husband Oleg Protopopov were the first Soviet figure skaters to win an Olympic gold medal, at Innsbruck in 1964. Their innovative balletic style brought them gold again in 1968 at Grenoble as well as four world and European ti-

ties.

The pair left the Soviet Union in 1979 and now live in Switzerland.

Also admitted to the International Women's Hall of Fame were three Americans: Figure skater Carol Heiss Jenkins, collegiate basketball coach Margaret Wade and "brave" Bessie Coleman, the first licensed black pilot in the world, who had to go to France in 1921 to achieve her dream of flying.

The Women's Sports Foundation, founded in 1976, is a non-profit educational organization to promote girls' and women's sports.

For the purposes of the Sportswomen of the Year awards, the year ran from August 1991 through July 1992, and included all events in the Summer Olympics.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Leeds to play Stuttgart Friday

LONDON (R) — Leeds United will play Stuttgart in their first round European Cup soccer rematch Friday night in Barcelona, the Leeds club said Tuesday. Leeds secretary Nigel Pleasants said: "We have accepted UEFA's decision to play Friday night." He added: "We think that we have had a rough deal from UEFA over this and now we have got to go out and win it on the pitch."

South Africa return to international hockey

BRUSSELS (R) — South Africa has returned to international hockey after 18 years in isolation because of the republic's apartheid policies. A senior International Hockey Federation (FIH) official said that South Africa had always remained a FIH member but had been prevented from playing international matches. He said the FIH's go-ahead followed the admission of the South African Hockey Association to the South African National Olympic Committee Sept. 26. "Now South Africa is just a normal member of the FIH," the official added. FIH President Etienne Glichitch said: "The hockey world has been awaiting this comeback of South Africa for many years and we are delighted that our South African friends solved their problem at home." The FIH congress formally admitted the national associations from Armenia, Botswana, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Russia, Slovenia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. The FIH said it was also preparing to receive applications from Angola, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Georgia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

British No. 1 suffers heart scare

LONDON (R) — Top British tennis player Jeremy Bates revealed Tuesday that he had cardiac tests after suffering a heart scare last week and may cut down the number of tournaments he plays. "I was awake all night and my heart was pounding. I didn't know what the heck was going on, so I went to the hospital at six in the morning... I was starting to get pretty scared," Bates was quoted as saying after his first-round defeat in the Australian Indoor Tournament in Sydney. "I felt fine out there today. I was just happy to be on the court, but I'm a bit scared about actually pushing my respiratory system," said the 30-year-old British number one who lost 6-1, 6-4 to Australian Neil Bowrick. Bates, who produced some of the best tennis of his career in June to become the first British man to reach the fourth round of Wimbledon since Buster Mottram in 1982, said he had seen four physicians. "They've discovered a couple of things wrong with me. I get low blood pressure when I stand up and I have a spasm in the neck, so I am having problems swallowing. The ECG tests I had done were normal, but I'm still a bit wary."

PAOK cut ties with supporters groups

ATHENS (R) — PAOK Salonika are cutting ties with supporters associations after crowd violence at their ground last week prompted European soccer's governing body to slap a two-season ban on the Greek club. "The decision to split with the fan associations is final. We want their dissolution," PAOK said in a statement Monday. UEFA Sunday expelled PAOK from the UEFA Cup and banned them from European club competitions for the next two seasons in which they qualify, following clashes between Greek fans and riot police. PAOK officials said they had expected the ban and that the club would sue those who instigated the violence for damages. "The punishment was not severe," one official said. At least 10 people were injured and eight arrested last Thursday when PAOK fans clashed with riot police after setting fire to seats and storming the pitch. The Salonika team's UEFA Cup second round second leg match against Paris St. Germain was abandoned at the end of the first half. The French club were awarded the match 3-0 and meet Italy's Napoli in the second round. Any appeal must be lodged by midnight Tuesday. PAOK officials said they were considering whether to do so.

Promoter offers Holyfield-Bruno title fight

LONDON (AP) — British boxing promoter Mickey Duff offered the prospect of a world heavyweight title fight between champion Evander Holyfield and Frank Bruno in London next spring. Duff said he was offering Holyfield \$10 million to put his title on the line at Wembley Stadium in late April or early May — assuming that Bruno beats South Africa's Pierre Coetzee on Oct. 17 and Holyfield makes a successful defense against Riddick Bowe next month. Duff wants to line up a title fight for Bruno before rival Lennox Lewis, the British heavyweight champion. Lewis is hoping for a world chance if he beats Razov Raddok in London Oct. 31. Bruno, who lost previous world title challenges to Mike Tyson and Tim Witherdown said: "With Tyson out of the reckoning things are wide open. I'm a more mature fighter now — mentally and physically — and I feel this is my time." "It's a nice carrot to be dangled in front of me, but at the moment I have to put all thoughts of Holyfield out of my mind," Bruno said.

Fischer denounces Kasparov

BELGRADE (AP) — Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer Monday denounced reigning champion Garry Kasparov and denied negotiations were under way for a match with teen-age Hungarian grandmaster Judit Polgar.

Miss Polgar recently became the youngest person ever to receive the grandmaster title, a distinction which had previously belonged to Fischer. Fischer, 55, played 11 games in the Montenegro resort of Svet Stefan and resumed in Belgrade last week after a 10-day break.

Fischer, who defeated Spassky for the world title in 1972, insists he is playing for the championship. But the match is not sanctioned by the International Chess Federation, which stripped Fischer of his title in 1975 for refusing to defend it.

being used in the current match was plagiarized from the timing system used in the Japanese game go.

Fischer has refused to discuss a match against Kasparov until he is paid for an unauthorized edition of his book published in the Soviet Union 20 years ago.

Fischer, 49, and Boris Spassky, 55, played 11 games in the Montenegrin resort of Svet Stefan and resumed in Belgrade last week after a 10-day break.

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Arrese, Gustafsson win in Athens

ATHENS (AP) — Jordi Arrese of Spain, the number 3 seed, and Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson, seeded 7th, won first round matches in the \$130,000 SAAB Athens International tennis tournament. Fifth-seeded Gabriel Markus of Argentina and 8th-seeded Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay were eliminated. Arrese, a finalist here last year, defeated compatriot Jose Francisco Altur 7-6 (4), 6-2, and Gustafsson rallied to beat fellow Swede Lars Jansson 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-1. But Markus lost to Frenchman Thierry Champion 6-4, 6-2 and Filippini fell to German Marc Goellner 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in two hours, in the longest match of the day. The tournament's top two seeds, Spaniards Sergi Bruguera and Francisco Clavet, plan their first round matches Tuesday.

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THE BETTER HALF By Harris

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

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Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BAGGY MAJOR TUMULT HAPPEN
Answer: The caddy lost his job because he couldn't learn this—NOT TO LAUGH

Ivanisevic breezes through first match

SYDNEY (AP) — Second-seeded Goran Ivanisevic, showing little sign of rustiness from a four-week layoff, blasted his way into the third round of the Sydney Indoor tennis tournament Tuesday.

Ivanisevic, who is locked in a tight battle for the last spots in the season-ending ATP tour final for the top eight ranked players, rode his powerful serve-and-volley game to a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Gianluca Pozzi of Italy in the \$1.1 million event.

"I just need to get my tournament game back," said the lanky Croatian, who appeared recovered from a stomach ailment that plagued his U.S. Open effort last month.

"You need a couple of matches to get used to it again. Maybe I need one more match and then I'm back."

No. 5 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and No. 6 Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands joined Ivanisevic and unseeded Patrick Kuhnke of Germany in the round of 16 with straight-set victories. American Patrick McEnroe was a first-round loser to Germany's Patrick Bauer in a third-set tiebreaker.

Seventh-seeded John McEnroe, Patrick's brother, was to play Russian qualifier Andrei Olhovskiy in a second-round night match.

McEnroe, fresh from a three-set victory over Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi in an exhibition match Sunday in Mel-

bourne, is probably making his last appearance in Australia. He won this tournament all four times he played in 1980-83 and shared the doubles title three times.

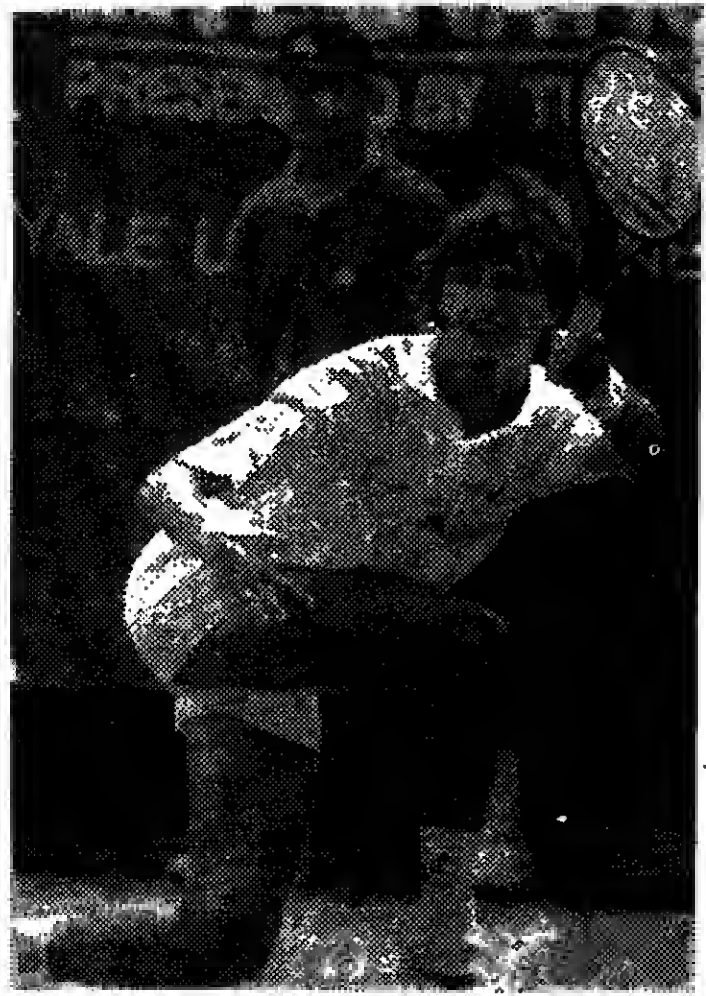
The top eight seeds had first-round byes. Defending champion and top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden, who has slipped to third in the world rankings despite winning the U.S. Open last month, sees his first action Wednesday, as do fourth-seeded Ivan Lendl and third-seeded Agassi.

Krajicek needed just 40 minutes to blow out Alex Antonitsch of Austria 6-1, 6-1. Although the tall Dutchman has one of the most powerful serves in the game, he eased up a bit and had only five aces.

"I don't go too much for the hard serves anymore because sometimes with hard serves you have to pay a price with injury," said Krajicek, who was forced to default from the Australian Open semifinals in January with shoulder problems.

Australia's Richard Fromberg, who reached No. 24 in the rankings two years ago, fell to Ferreira 6-3, 6-3, but remained unconvinced the South African deserves to be in the top 10.

"He is a top 20 player," said Fromberg, whose game is better suited to clay than the artificial surface used here. "In a couple of years he could be a consistent top 10er, but he has had a good run and we'll have to wait and see whether he can stay there now."



Goran Ivanisevic

Dutch coach hopes Gullit may change decision to quit

ROTTERDAM (R) — Rudi Gullit's decision to quit international soccer has not helped his cause to secure a regular first-team place at AC Milan, who have dropped him for Wednesday's Italian Cup tie with Cagliari.

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat told reporters Tuesday he hoped Gullit would change his mind and return to the national side for their world cup game in Turkey in December.

His unavailability for the Netherlands has not helped

Advocaat, whose side for next week's World Cup qualifying tie against Poland is all the weaker for the midfielder's absence.

Advocaat made several changes to the squad Tuesday after his team's shock 2-1 defeat in Norway in their opening qualifier.

He recalled PSV captain Gerald Vanenburg in place of Genoa winger John Van 't Schip, after the two settled their differences, and dropped Ajax defender Danny Blind and Frank De Boer for PSV defender Berry

Van Aerle and Ajax midfielder Wim Jonk.

Vanenburg had indicated he would return to the Dutch squad only if he would play from the start.

Gullit, who produced a typically influential performance in Milan's 7-3 victory at Fiorentina Sunday in his first league game of the season, told Advocaat of his decision to quit international soccer last week.

"I am not going back (to play for the Netherlands). I had a long chat with the coach last week and

I told him that I would not play in Rotterdam against Poland," he said Monday.

"My reasons are personal and I won't say anymore."

His reasons are widely considered to have been forced on him to ensure Milan have no excuse to drop him.

But despite scoring twice against Fiorentina and playing in last week's European Cup tie at Olimpija Ljubljana, Gullit will be rested by coach Fabio Capello dropped in favour of Frenchman Jean-Pierre Papin.

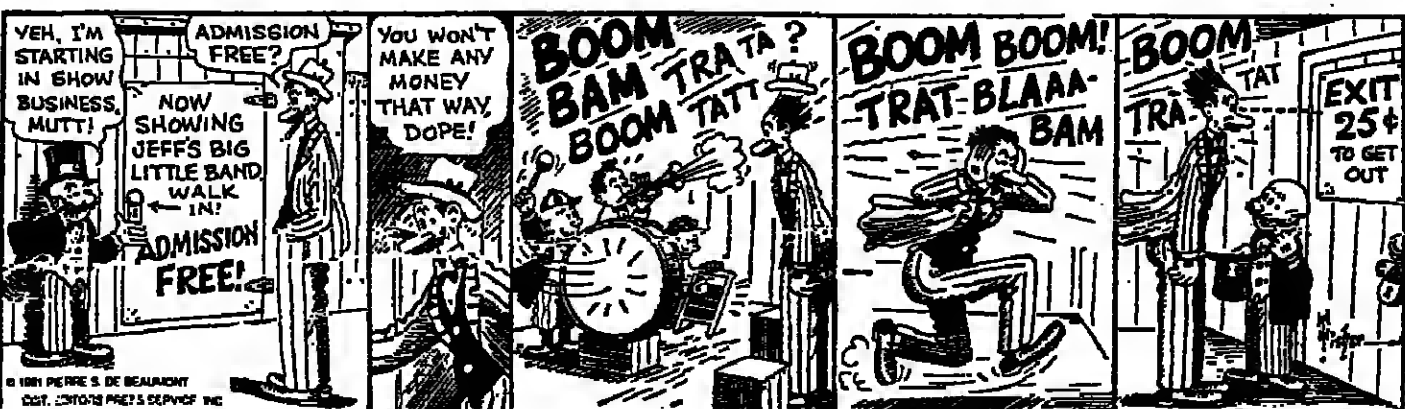
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by L. Miller

ACROSS

1 Saints' headgear
6 Mount's land
10 Jangled
14 Exome
15 Bean curd
16 Bouquet
17 Georgia member
18 Sparrow
19 Buny's or
20 Lookout
22 Multiply by six
24 Region
25 Chicken or pig
27 Snowman's shoe
31 Mopet
32 Ellipse
33 Miles of jazz
35 Revor enhancer, briefly
36 Salsic's
38 "Gator"
39 Carpenter
40 Agass's island
41 Remnant
42 Root
43 Postage scale unit
44 — Michel
45 Double take, for one
47 D.C. Hill
51 Yehin's
52 Arrogant
54 Set away
58 "My way" composer
59 Spillane's
61 Emulate a rhetor
62 Observed
63 Scan
64 "La Plume de Me"

DOWN

1 Crows
2 Burn soother
3 Celebrity
4 Stumbling block
5 Mountain ranges
8 Cal — day
7 Katharine or Diane
9 Out to get
10 Vigorously
11 Acolite
12 Aristocratic
13 — Carson
14 Un-hill
23 Southwest resort
25 Lark's hand
26 Pizzeria's feature
28 King or queen
30 Rock bottom
34 Fairy lady
35 Paul of old films
36 City north of Kennebunkport
37 FBI agents
38 More than half
40 Throaty
42 Appraise
43 Spotted cats
44 Glens
45 Nautical response
46 Deconstruct
48 Lou Grant's portrayal
49 Draw or stud
50 Supple
53 Guzzle
55 Jutlander
57 Major suffix
59 Profound
60 Faberge fabrication

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

BASE STAIR PADE
LADY MADRE ALIA
BOBACALANBARBER
BOB KING LADARIE
BOBB GARD
GAMMA AREE DAG
ARROW ANAR ROSE
SUNDRIES ANACROP
BORE ABY ROASTY
BOB LADY BOOTES
DARE GRAY
ANARAD BOAD AND
SADDERAPARTENT
EDIE BRADY BOBB
SEBB BRADY DEEP

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 5/10/92	TCRYO CLOSE Date 6/10/92
Sterling Pound	1.7133	1.7082
Deutsche Mark	1.4215	1.4233
Swiss Franc	1.2385	1.2411
French Franc	4.8275	4.8325**
Japanese Yen	119.85	119.79
European Currency Unit	1.5605	1.5640**

USD Per SYG

** European Opening 04:00 a.m. GMT

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.09	3.15	3.12	3.18
Sterling Pound	9.25	8.93	8.68	8.43
Deutsche Mark	8.94	8.75	8.50	8.25
Swiss Franc	6.43	6.43	6.43	6.25
French Franc	13.00	12.50	10.50	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.09	3.81	3.71	3.68
European Currency Unit	12.25	12.00	11.00	10.25

Interest bid rates for currencies exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals			Date: 6/10/92		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ^a	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	350.95	6.80	Silver	3.775	0.085

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.675	0.677
Sterling Pound	1.1521	1.1579
Deutsche Mark	0.4734	0.4758
Swiss Franc	0.5429	0.5456
French Franc	0.1395	0.1402
Japanese Yen	0.5634	0.5662
Dutch Guilder	0.4202	0.4223
Swedish Krona	0.1246	0.1252
Italian Lira	0.0509	0.0512
Belgian Franc	0.02303	0.02315

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7600	1.7800
Lebanese Lira	0.02635	0.02890
Saudi Riyal	0.1797	0.1810
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.300
Qatari Riyal	0.1829	0.1840
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7240	1.7360
UAE Dirham	0.1829	0.1840
Greek Drachma	0.3600	0.37190
Cypriot Pound	1.5590	1.5850

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	5/10/92	Close	4/10/92	Close
All-Share	152.14		154.10	
Banking Sector	115.73		118.50	
Insurance Sector	163.39		164.13	
Industry Sector	177.87		178.75	
Services Sector	223.93		225.39	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.7105/15	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.2495/500	Canadian dollar	
	1.4195/205	Deutsche marks	
	1.6010/60	Dutch guilders	
	1.2390/405	Swiss francs	
	29.26/30	Belgian francs	
	4.8120/70	French francs	
	1360/1390	Italian lire	
	119.70/80	Japanese yen	
	5.3800/900	Swedish crowns	
	5.8100/200	Norwegian crowns	
	5.5100/200	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	\$350.30/350.80		

Bundesbank again rejects blame for EMS turmoil

FRANKFURT (R) — The German Bundesbank Monday again denied that its high interest rates were solely to blame for recent turmoil on Europe's money markets and said the real fault lay with economic divergences among EC member countries.

The central bank's deputy president, Hans Tietmeyer, also said in a speech that market tensions could have been prevented if European nations had played by the rules of the European Monetary System (EMS) and not refused to renege on currencies.

He was surprised at the controversy about a "two-speed" Europe, saying the Maastricht European union treaty provided for a varying pace of movement towards economic integration.

Mr. Tietmeyer said the recent turbulence in the EMS had been blamed on German "arrogance" and "egotism."

According to the text of his speech, the real reasons for the recent turbulence lie somewhere quite different — namely in the exchange rate structures which had become a threat to economic divergences.

He said the recent turmoil had had its positive side, in that a "veil had been drawn back and realities laid bare."

Economic divergences had

emerged which could no longer be covered up on a long term basis, Mr. Tietmeyer said.

"Certainly the heavy burden of German monetary policy had contributed to the tensions in the EMS but they were not the decisive cause," Mr. Tietmeyer added.

"For the system and its credibility it would have been better if the rules of the (EMS), which as is known provides for fixed but adjustable rates, had been applied earlier."

The EMS had a role to play in the stability and prosperity of the European Community as long as it was properly used in the future, he added.

Mr. Tietmeyer conceded there were risks attached to the Maastricht process, including the need to gain broad public support for policies of monetary stability.

But, despite the possibility that not all 12 EC member states would ratify the Maastricht treaty, he warned against renegotiation of the treaty, saying that would open up a "Pandora's Box."

Referring to the current debate about whether some countries would "opt out," he said that would not be a good idea.

He said the recent turmoil had had its positive side, in that a "veil had been drawn back and realities laid bare."

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET

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TELEPHONE: 660170 / 660170

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR THURSDAY 06/10/1992

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COMPANY'S NAME

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CBJ governor says he will resign if pressed to derail monetary train

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Let it be known to everyone that the central bank has a fixed and defined responsibility to achieve and maintain monetary stability as its top priority. I have the task to bring about a total dinar stability and an acceptable and well-balanced level of currency convertibility," Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi told a large group of bankers and businessmen attending a forum arranged by the Jordanian Businessmen Association.

Dr. Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), added: "I have a mandate to ensure that under no circumstances there would ever be a repetition of the monetary disaster which hit the Kingdom in 1988/89."

The CBJ governor said the central bank was strictly committed to implement a monetary policy, designed within the framework of the "national" adjustment programme, and would not compromise on that policy to satisfy any requirements from any authority.

"I will resign before I compromise on any part of the CBJ monetary policy for any reason," he declared.

The CBJ governor was answering a businessman's question regarding any change by the central bank in the monetary course due to fiscal or economic pressure.

"The minister of finance has been honestly implementing his task in the adjustment programme in as much as we have been

honestly doing our part at the central bank. The programme involves many financial and economic parties. We cooperate and coordinate with them but without deviation from our monetary task which is our main concern at the central bank," he pointed out.

Dr. Nabulsi said that the Kingdom's balance of payments has improved tremendously, foreign exchange reserves were built to a very secure level and credit extensions by banks were going smoothly on course.

He admitted having curbed credit extensions to 10 per cent of a bank's capital and reserves, or 90 per cent of a bank's total dinar deposits, but he asserted that the move was necessary to control money supply and reduce inflation which he described as "the source of all economic ills."

He said that inflation in Jordan had been brought down from 25.8 per cent in 1989 to 16.1 per cent in 1990 and to 8.2 per cent in 1991. He added that inflation during this year will be around five per cent as it had been about 4.5 per cent during the first eight months of 1992.

Regarding interest rates, Dr. Nabulsi said that internationally, two measures had been taken to perform monetary control. The two measures, fixing an interest rate system and specifying credit volumes for economic sectors, had also been found utterly impractical.

He explained that worldwide it had been proven that floating

interest rates provided banks with better opportunities to improve their financial standing, upgrade their reserves and show healthier images, especially nowadays as the world moves towards beefing the capital adequacy of banks.

By refraining from specifying credit ceilings on types of credit, except for an overall total ceiling of JD 300 million (of which JD 95 million were earmarked to the public sector), and by floating interest rates, Jordan managed to keep its investment door wide open within the adjustment programme framework, said Dr. Nabulsi.

The central bank governor mentioned the risks that can rock investors who take refuge in foreign currencies. Referring to the severe shake-up that unsettled the U.S., Japanese and European currencies, Dr. Nabulsi advised the audience to take cover in local currency because it was a far better security than the major world currencies which were becoming more and more unpredictable and shaky.

Noting that the Jordanian dinar was covered by a basket of major currencies, he affirmed that these currencies neutralize each other in case some of them depreciate or gain value. He pointed out that as such, the effect on the dinar value would be nil or very minimal.

Dr. Nabulsi elaborated that even foreign currency accounts for citizens at Jordanian banks here carry a substantial risk because, in terms of value and interest, the foreign currency accounts are not immune from

negative effects that may hit a specific currency.

Citing the dollar as example, the CBJ governor said that about \$5 billion, representing 35 per cent of dollar deposits at banks in Jordan were being kept as "reserves" at the central bank. With the dollar dropping about 10 per cent in value over the past few weeks, the reserves have lost some \$500m of their value.

The loss is actually a loss for the people who had dollar accounts, Dr. Nabulsi explained. He said world central banks have no choice but to pay for any losses they incur from holding foreign currency as reserves for their own account. He described it as an "inevitable fact of life."

A businessman raised the issue of the Kingdom's foreign debt but the governor assured the audience that the central bank was servicing Jordan's debt on time and that the rescheduling was spread over the next 25-30 years and that the country would not be burdened in any way that would impede its economic progress.

"Jordan last month paid \$30 million to London Club creditors although we haven't reached a final agreement with them on the \$1.3 billion commercial debt," the governor said.

Dr. Nabulsi concluded by saying that any further improvement in the balance of payments, inflation rate, currency stability, money supply and the volume and cost of credits would make it easier for the central bank to loosen currency controls to the least possible.

Yeltsin pledges to stamp out dollar economy

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said Tuesday that Russia must halt the use of foreign currency in its schizophrenic economy to shore up the value of the ruble.

The increasingly worthless currency continued its headlong dive on Moscow's small twice-weekly exchange, falling to a new low of 342 against the dollar from 309 last Thursday.

Mr. Yeltsin sketched a four-point plan to rescue the currency and end Russia's increasingly stark division into a dollar economy for the rich and ruble market for the poor.

"We need to stop the use of foreign currency to pay for services and goods," he told parliament in a speech. "The ruble must be the only means of payment in Russia."

Any ban on sales for foreign currency would hit not only black market dealers but the growing number of Russian firms and foreign joint ventures which trade for dollars in shops used by Westerners and affluent Russians.

Supermarkets, travel companies, hotels, airlines and many others increasingly offer their services for hard currency only, creating a dual economy rich in contradictions and anomalies.

Russians without access to hard currency or "valyuta" must scramble to make ends meet in an economy ravaged by inflation which is expected to top 1,000 per cent this year. An average monthly salary of 5,000 rubles translates into about \$15, though its buying power is more than this suggests.

Besides halting sales for

valyuta, Mr. Yeltsin demanded the creation of a single money supply mechanism in the "ruble zone" to which most of the 15 former Soviet republics still belong.

He said the uncoordinated flood of more and more rubles into the economy was sinking reforms under a wave of inflation.

Import taxes must be reviewed

to stimulate a flow of foreign consumer goods, particularly food, Mr. Yeltsin said.

And a "real, not superinflated" ruble rate must be achieved by expanding embryonic currency exchanges, opening them to foreign as well as Russian dealers and making exporters sell their entire hard currency revenues for rubles.

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THE ITALIAN EMBASSY AND THE ITALIAN - JORDANIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ANNOUNCE

Abkhazian separatists win new victory in Georgia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Abkhazian separatists have won a new victory, sweeping Georgian government forces out of the west of the breakaway region, both sides said Tuesday.

A spokesman for the ruling State Council in Tbilisi told journalists the last two Georgian-held villages northwest of the Abkhazian capital Sukhumi fell in fighting overnight.

The Abkhazian parliament's press centre, quoted by Interfax News Agency, said Georgian troops had suffered hundreds of casualties and fled by sea or over the Russian border, abandoning their weapons.

The Abkhazian success was a severe blow to the government of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, which is preparing for elections Sunday.

Hundreds of people have been killed since fighting began seven weeks ago between the Abkhazians, backed by thousands of volunteer gunmen from southern Russia, and the government of the former Soviet republic.

The first breakthrough came Friday when Gagra, the main Georgian stronghold in north-west Abkhazia, fell to what Tbilisi said was a combined force of Abkhazians, Caucasian Mountain tribesmen and Russian Cossacks.

The State Council spokesman, quoting reports from Sukhumi, said that late Monday a combined Abkhazian-Cossack force captured the villages of Gantiadi and Leselidze, between Gagra and the Russian border.

Georgian Karkarashvili, Georgian commander in Abkhazia, was forced to flee to the mountains, he said.

The Abkhazians said hundreds of Georgian soldiers, cut off by the fall of Gagra, fled by sea and

across the border to Russia, "abandoning their armor, weapons and ammunition."

ITAR-TASS News Agency reported from Sochi, further up the Black Sea coast, that some 200 Georgian troops had crossed onto Russian territory and been "interned." They would be sent back to Tbilisi.

President Boris Yeltsin, answering questions in parliament Tuesday, said Russia was taking control of the railway running through Abkhazia between Russia and the rest of Georgia.

The conflict has poisoned relations between Georgia and Russia. Its former colonial master.

The Georgian government has protested bitterly over the role of the volunteer tribesmen — from autonomous regions of the Russian Federation such as the Acheche and Chechen Republics.

Senior commander Jaba Ioseliani said Monday that Georgia would demand the withdrawal of all Russian forces stationed there — a hangover from the Soviet Union — unless the volunteers were withdrawn.

The State Council has also threatened to seize all Russian military hardware on its territory, prompting a tough warning from Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Mr. Shevardnadze has said he would mobilise 40,000 men to crush the Abkhazian rebellion if necessary.

Only around one fifth of the population of the region are Abkhazians, with Georgians accounting for some 40 per cent and the rest made up of Armenians and other minorities.

At an impromptu news conference in the legislature's hallway, Mr. Yeltsin proposed that a meeting be held on Oct. 13 in Abkhazia with Mr. Shevardnadze

and the Abkhazian leadership.

The railroad, which parallels the Black Sea coast, is the main north-south route from Russia to Georgia and Armenia. All the principal cities of Abkhazia, including its capital of Sukhumi, are along the coast. Along with their ports, they represent the richest part of the western region of Georgia.

In Georgia's capital of Tbilisi, there was no immediate reaction.

On Monday, Georgian State Council member Dzhaba Ioseliani said in an interview with the Associated Press that Russian troops in Georgia have until Oct. 15 to leave the country, or else risk being removed by force.

It was not clear whether the rest of the leadership supported the statements by Mr. Ioseliani, one of four members of the State Council's presidium.

In a speech to the legislature earlier Monday, Mr. Yeltsin said the crisis in Abkhazia "has become one of the major factors of instability in the region."

"Once again, I confirm that Russia will not stand aside when human rights are violated, the interests of people of Russian origin are trampled," he said.

"Even now there are 25,000 refugees from Abkhazia on our territory."

Yeltsin admits errors

President Yeltsin Tuesday called for major "correctives" in Russia's economic reforms and criticised two leading liberal ministers by name.

But he said the government of Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, a liberal economist who is popular in top Western banking circles, must remain in place.

In a clear bid to shore up plunging ratings, Mr. Yeltsin told

the conservative-dominated parliament mistakes had been made in the course of the reforms; and he promised greater protection for the poor and a crackdown on widespread corruption.

"Correctives in the reforms are necessary. This is a presidential demand," Mr. Yeltsin said in a 30-minute address, broadcast live on Russian Television.

He said too much attention had been focused on the big picture, ignoring the human cost. But he said the embattled government should remain in power.

Still, this is not grounds for the resignation of the government. I am convinced that under these conditions any other government would have managed even worse.

"Despite difficulties and losses, the reform has started and it is continuing."

In a separate newspaper interview, Mr. Yeltsin dismissed criticism that recent steps to ease the shock therapy meant an end to the radical restructuring of the post-Communist economy.

"I cannot agree with those who say the reforms have been betrayed. We are moving forward, trying to keep a balance," he told the daily *Trud*.

"Otherwise we would have paid too high a price and endangered civil peace and stability in Russia."

The president's proposals to parliament included tighter control over the printing of money, an end to hard currency payments inside Russia and other measures to strengthen the plunging rouble against the dollar.

His tough talk on the rouble, however, was undermined by the latest trading on the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange, which pushed the ex-Soviet currency to a new low of 342 against the dollar from 309.

Angola war fears rise as UNITA pulls out of army

LUANDA (R) — Facing defeat in Angola's first multi-party elections, former rebel UNITA chief Jonas Savimbi has cried fraud and withdrawn his men from the country's newly unified armed forces.

His action aroused fears among war-weary Angolans of a new eruption of the war between UNITA and the ruling MPLA in which hundreds of thousands of people died.

Diplomats said it dimmed prospects for a peaceful transition to democracy for the vast south-west African country devastated by the 16-year conflict.

"This is serious," said a Western diplomat. "It's not an outright declaration of war but it confirms many people's fears that Savimbi would not accept defeat gracefully."

Mr. Savimbi, trailing in provisional results of the Sept. 29-30 election behind the MPLA, repeated Monday his charges that the government manipulated the vote with fraud, ballot-stealing and intimidation.

Hundreds of international observers judged the U.N.-monitored elections free and fair and election officials have challenged Mr. Savimbi to prove his charges.

With 80 per cent of the vote counted, provisional results gave Mr. Savimbi 39 per cent and President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos 51.5 per cent. The MPLA had an even bigger advantage in the race for a 22-seat parliament.

At midnight, UNITA's Joint Command of Angola's new national army declared he was withdrawing his men from the new military formed under May 1991 peace accords unless the election process was halted, no more results were announced and his charges of voter intimidation were recognised.

"UNITA feels betrayed by the government. Democracy should permit all Angolans to freely choose their party and leaders," said General Afrindo Chenda, a UNITA spokesman.

"As soldiers of the country and in name of all our armed colleagues — generals, officers, sergeants and soldiers of the FALA (UNITA armed forces) we have decided in deep protest to abandon the FAA (unified army)."

He said UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) did not want to resume the war which devastated the country. But "to avoid the worst" UNITA armed forces were making the three demands "which must be met."

U.N. officials and an international commission set up to monitor the transition to democracy — which comprises UNITA and MPLA members and Portuguese, Russian and U.S. observers — held urgent talks Tuesday.

There was no immediate comment from the government but MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) Secretary General Marcelino Madoa said Monday the government did not want war. "We will not throw the first stones," he said.

Sarajevo residents get respite after battering

SARAJEVO (R) — The people of Sarajevo spent a generally quiet night after enduring what the city's defenders called the worst day of the war.

The darkened city, still without water and electricity, was illuminated by fires in three residential towers which blazed out of control into Tuesday morning.

Two fires blazed in the residential neighbourhood of Hrasno and the third was next to the emergency hospital.

Both areas are two to three kilometres west of the centre of the Bosnian capital, under siege since April by Serb forces fighting against Bosnian independence.

More than 11,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

There was sporadic shelling of Stari Grad, a district next to Sarajevo's old town, where the besieged city's eastern front line is located, and Dobrinja, adjacent to the airport.

On Tuesday morning, occasional mortar and heavy machine gun fire could be heard throughout the city from the battered Holiday Inn Hotel where the foreign press corps is based.

Hrasno, having borne the brunt of Monday's bombardment, experienced sporadic shelling overnight but an anticipated Serb infantry assault appears not to have materialised.

Mario Frimel, commander of Bosnian fighters in Hrasno, said the area had known nothing like the bombardment Monday since the rebel Serb siege of Sarajevo began in April.

A power station and two office blocks were also set on fire. Workers inside one of the buildings said it was struck by two mortar bombs but that the fire was started by phosphorus bullets fired by Serb anti-aircraft guns.

At one point during the day, nine bodies had been brought to the local emergency hospital and journalists saw five other corpses strewn in a square where intense firing was going on.

The Bosnian Serbs, reporting at least one of their soldiers dead and five wounded, told the story

Thieves desecrate grave of comedian Benny Hill

LONDON (R) — The grave of Benny Hill, one of Britain's most successful comedians, has been dug up and his coffin smashed open by thieves lured by rumours of buried jewels, police said.

Hill's body was left untouched in its burial shroud in the opened coffin, police said. A spokesman denied local rumours that the comedian, whose bawdy television show was popular in some 100 countries, had been buried with a fortune in jewels.

The raid on the grave was discovered Sunday by a man who lived near the Hollywood Cemetery in Southampton, where Hill was buried next to his parents. He died in April of a heart attack sitting alone in front of his television. After a police inspection, the lid of the coffin was replaced and a thick concrete slab was placed over the grave.

Ugandan farmer grows mega pumpkin

KAMPALA (R) — They say Uganda is so fertile you only have to drop a seed and spit to grow a tree. Kibuka Nakekwe dropped a few seeds and grew a pumpkin weighing 78 kilos (171 pounds), about 13 times the normal weight but about 120 kilos (264 pounds) short of the biggest listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

The New Vision newspaper said Mr. Nakekwe also harvested six other pumpkins averaging 48 kilos (105 lbs) apiece at his village of Sango, 64 kilometres southwest of Kampala.

Scarlett O'Hara plays hard to get

ATLANTA (R) — The search for a "made for television" Scarlett O'Hara to succeed Vivien Leigh in a sequel to *Gone With the Wind* has come up empty after 20,000 auditions.

But the Hungarian-born producer of the mini-series said he would not give up. "This is so important a role, you need such an incredible actress to do this, that I think it was wishful thinking to find an unknown," producer Robert Hamlin told reporters. "This is the most important thing in my life and I will not have the tail wagging the dog. When I see Scarlett, I will know who she is."

Irish singer insults pope

NEW YORK (R) — Irish singer Sinéad O'Connor provoked a furor Monday after ripping up a picture of Pope John Paul II on a U.S. television on NBC's Saturday Night Live stunned the studio audience and the network's switchboard was jammed with nearly 500 protest calls.

Hundreds of letters and spokesmen for various Catholic groups denounced O'Connor as in need of spiritual and professional help. The New York Daily News called her a "holy terror" in its page one report of the incident.

Seoul: N. Korea trying to communise South

SEOUL (AP) — The national intelligence agency said Tuesday it has proof rival Communist North Korea was working to communise South Korea by 1995, despite moves toward reconciliation.

The announcement was wide-ranging and appeared likely to deepen distrust between the Koreans as they work toward implementing peace accords adopted earlier this year.

The Agency for National Security Planning said some 400 people were implicated — 62 have been charged — in the largest investigation against North Korea since 1948.

The Korean peninsula has been bitterly divided since the end of World War II in 1945. The two nations fought the 1950-53 Korean war and the border between them is tightly sealed, with more than 1.5 million armed troops on either side.

Lee Dong-Bok, spokesman for the South's delegation to inter-Korean prime ministers' talks, said the disclosures on North Korean spying could hinder progress in future inter-Korean talks.

Unification Minister Choi Young-Chul immediately called a meeting for Wednesday to discuss implications of the scandal on pro-West South Korea's overall approach to unification policies, his office said.

Meanwhile, a 14-member South Korean delegation crossed the border for a four-day visit to conduct a feasibility study for joint economic ventures in the North Korean port of Nampo.

Newspaper reports, quoting unnamed government sources, said the government might reconsider allowing businessmen to travel to North Korea in the future. The governing Democratic Liberal Party said they should not have been sent at all.

The spy case comes as the nation is preparing for presidential elections expected in December, and some saw it as a government move to create anxiety among voters. In the past, security concerns have benefited the incumbent government.

Yet the size of this case, and the prominence of some of those arrested, has surprised even liberal Koreans who concede longtime rival North Korea remains a potential security threat.

"South Koreans have loosened their guard because the North and South have been having talks and they look hopeful to them," said Chung Hyung-Kean, the intelligence agency spokesman.

"It is now apparent from evidence that North Korea set a goal to communise the South by 1995," he said. "We are shocked at the scope of it."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Yeltsin attacks Gorbachev

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin Tuesday blasted his old nemesis Mikhail Gorbachev for ignoring a summons to appear before the country's highest court at hearings to decide the fate of the Communist Party. Mr. Yeltsin told journalists at the Russian parliament that Mr. Gorbachev, the former Soviet president and party chief, had displayed blatant disregard for the very legal system established during his tenure. "This is disrespect for a law-based state, for the constitutional court and for Russian statehood," President Yeltsin told an impromptu news conference after addressing parliament. The two leaders have often clashed over personal and political differences, built up through years of alternating cooperation and rivalry. On Monday court chairman Valery Zorkin imposed on Mr. Gorbachev the maximum — though symbolic — fine of 100 roubles (30 cents) for failing to appear before long-running hearings on the legality of the party and a ban imposed on it by Mr. Yeltsin. Two days earlier Mr. Gorbachev was banned from travelling abroad until he agreed to take the stand.

Army called out after Guyana violence

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — President Desmond Hoyte ordered troops to restore order overnight after voters shouting charges of fraud rioted and two people were killed. The capital was reported calm Tuesday. The violence — begun by people who were barred from voting — occurred Monday night during Guyana's first presidential election since 1985. Mobs stoned election offices and looted stores in the capital of this poor former British colony on the northeast shoulder of South America. Prime Minister Hamilton Green said the governing party was considering going to court to challenge the results of the vote in which Mr. Hoyte is running for reelection. "The process was sabotaged by known opposition activists" working as election officials in traditional governing-party strongholds, Mr. Green said. Mr. Hoyte said he sympathised with frustrated voters but he said he had instructed the army and police chiefs to use "all force... necessary" to restore order.

Burma ends 'offensive' operations

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Burma announced the suspension of all "offensive" military operations against rebel forces in an effort to calm ethnic strife in the country, a third of which is in revolt against the ruling junta. Burmese Foreign Minister U Hn Gyi, in his speech to the General Assembly, also rejected Western criticism of Burma's human rights practices or the military junta's slow progress toward restoring democracy. "In the realm of human rights," Mr. Gyi said, Burma "has been subjected to undue and unwarranted criticism from some quarters," and has been portrayed "as a land where gross violations of human rights have been perpetrated." Burma came under strong international criticism for its human rights record after troops fired on pro-democracy demonstrators in 1988, killing hundreds. No official investigation was held to determine blame for the shoot-to-kill orders. More than 400,000 people have fled the country since then.

3 missing in U.S. power plant blast

MEROM, Indiana (AP) — An explosion touched off a fire at an electrical power plant, leaving three people missing and 20 injured, authorities said. Helicopters rescued 10 to 12 workers trapped atop the burning building. The fire erupted in late morning when an explosion rocked the Hoosier energy-owned power plant and was brought under control by midafternoon, said Wally King of the Sullivan County Civil Defence Department. Emergency workers were searching the Merom Generating Station for three workers who were unaccounted for, state police said. Six people suffering from smoke inhalation were taken to a hospital in nearby Sullivan and 14 others were treated at the scene. Helicopters were used to rescue as many as a dozen workers trapped on the roof of the 60-metre-tall building in Merom, a small town on the Wabash River 120 kilometres north of Evansville. The 8-year-old plant is coal-fired.

U.S., Russia sign space agreement

MOSCOW (AP) — Americans and Russians will fly joint missions in 1993 and 1995 under a pact signed in Moscow, officials said. Russian cosmonauts will fly next year aboard a U.S. space shuttle, and American astronauts will take part in a mission aboard the Mir space station in 1995, according to the pioneering agreement. The deal, worked out by Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin during their June summit in Washington, was signed by Dan Goldin, head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), undersecretary of state Frank Wisner, and Russian officials.

Buthelezi wants more say in S. Africa talks

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Two powerful black tribal leaders demanding more say in South Africa's reform talks said Tuesday that might quit the process for good if Pretoria continued "appeasement" of the African National Congress (ANC).

"We say no to any further appeasement of the ANC," Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi told a summit of black homeland leaders and white right-wing parties opposing Nelson Mandela's black anti-apartheid movement.

"All my pleas to President (F.W.) De Klerk have fallen on deaf ears... Mr. De Klerk has served notice on the country that he could be willing to contrive a constitutional agreement in collaboration with the ANC," Mr. Buthelezi said.

"If the South African government and the ANC persist in the practice which led to the record of understanding we will have nothing further to do with so-called negotiations," President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana told the summit.

Brazil's Franco swears in new cabinet ministers

BRASILIA (R) — Acting President Itamar Franco swore in five new cabinet ministers as business concern over his outsider choice to run Latin America's biggest economy caused share prices to plummet on the Sao Paulo Bourse.

Among those who took office following the impeachment of President Fernando Collor De Mello in a corruption scandal, was Economy Minister Gustavo Krause, criticised by powerful business and banking sectors as too inexperienced.

Shares on the Sao Paulo Stock Exchange, which has been hit by months of instability, plummeted 5.1 per cent Monday due to uncertainty over the economy's fate under Mr. Krause. The fall followed an 8 per cent drop in share prices Friday.

In a speech with veiled references to Mr. Collor's legacy of scandal and free market economics, Mr. Franco said Brazil's poor and middle class were sinking further into poverty and despair.

"Against this terrible backdrop, there are many who call for a weakening of the state," said

Clinton brushes off Moscow trip charges as smear

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton has accused Republicans of trying to smear him by implying sinister motives to a one-week trip to Moscow he made as a student more than 20 years ago.

Mr. Clinton, front-runner in opinion polls for next month's election, also welcomed the first congressional override of a veto by President George Bush, his Republican opponent.

The action was as a sign that Mr. Bush, whose previous 35 vetoes had gone unchallenged by Congress, was losing his legislative clout and may be seen increasingly as a lame duck.

Congress overturned Mr. Bush's veto on a bill to regulate the cable television industry Monday night. Republicans joined Democrats by far more than the two-thirds majority needed to make the bill law over Mr. Bush's objections.

Asked if the defeat would hurt Mr. Bush's reelection prospects on Nov. 3, Mr. Clinton said on Cable News Network (CNN) television: "It won't do him any good."

His vice presidential running mate, Senator Al Gore, added: "I'm really happy about it. It's an indication of the winds of change that are blowing across the country."

A month before the election and less than a week before the first of three television presidential debates, fresh polls showed Mr. Clinton continuing to lead

Mr. Bush by a comfortable margin.

An ABC News-Washington Post poll conducted last weekend gave Mr. Clinton 48 per cent to 35 per cent for Mr. Bush. Ross Perot, the Dallas billionaire who entered the race as an independent last week, had nine per cent among the 799 likely voters surveyed.

A New York Times/CBS weekend poll of 934 people found 46 per cent would vote for Mr. Clinton if the election were held today, compared with 38 per cent for Mr. Bush and seven per cent for Mr. Perot.

In the 90-minute interview on CNN, Mr. Clinton defended his 1970 travels, which Mr. Bush's camp has insinuated were somehow connected to his alleged organisation of at least one anti-Vietnam War protest as a graduate student in Britain.

A statement by the Bush campaign, echoing a report in the Washington Times Monday, charged that Mr. Clinton "turned up in the Soviet Union... six weeks after he helped organise a massive anti-war protest in London."

Mr. Clinton reported, referring to the Republicans: "They're pretty good at starting stuff, those guys are."

"You know they've been in power a long time and they're behind a little now and they're worried about it. So they're stirring everything they can stir, but this old dog won't bark."

He said that during a 40-day break in early 1970 from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes scholar, he toured Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland before spending a week in Russia and returning to Britain via Czechoslovakia.

Asked tongue-in-cheek whether he had met with the KGB secret police during his travels, Mr. Clinton replied that as far as he knew he had not done so.

Newsweek magazine reported Sunday that the FBI had been called in to investigate after State Department officials found several pages had been ripped out of Mr. Clinton's passport file.

"I didn't even know I had a State Department file until this rumour came up," Mr. Clinton said.

Several news organisations had applied under the Freedom of Information Act to see the file to check whether Mr. Clinton had ever considered applying for citizenship of another country to avoid the draft during the Vietnam War.

Newsweek speculated that pages of Mr. Clinton's file could have been destroyed by an official sympathetic to Mr. Clinton — or by a Bush supporter who wanted to make it look as if incriminating documents had been removed.

Meanwhile, protesters shouting "four more months" heckled Vice President Dan Quayle during a visit to San Francisco Monday, forcing him to cut short an impromptu walkabout.

Witnesses said Mr. Quayle had visited a school in the Chinatown district and was walking the short distance to his next campaign stop when he was confronted by a group of about 50 angry protesters shouting epithets.

Mr. Quayle is running for reelection in the Nov. 3 general election for a new term beginning in mid-January.

The crowd became bigger and more aggressive and Mr. Quayle, at the direction of his secret service bodyguards, finished the trip in his limousine. The vice president appeared calm and smiling throughout the incident, witnesses said.

Secret servicemen and dozens of policemen with riot gear shielded Mr. Quayle's limousine along the rest of the route.

"It was pretty scary," one witness said.

In a separate development, the U.S. Congress sent President George Bush a \$254 billion post-war defence bill Monday night that backs off quick construction of an anti-missile defence for U.S. cities but cuts no major weapons.

The House of Representatives and then the Senate approved the appropriation bill for defence programmes next year by voice votes.

It cuts Mr. Bush's \$5.4 billion request for "Star Wars" anti-missile defence research to \$3.8 billion, an additional \$200 million since below the \$4 billion in a defence authorisation bill Congress sent Mr. Bush Saturday.

Beatles' first hit Love Me Do turns 30

LONDON (R) — Britain's pop industry threw a party on Monday to celebrate a musical landmark — the launch 30 years ago of the Beatles' first hit single, Love Me Do. Corks popped at London's Abbey Road Studios at a reception to re-release the original Love Me Do single, unveil a new Beatles exhibition to tour 56 countries and launch a new book on the Beatles legend. "Can it really be 30 years since I introduced the fab four to Abbey Road Studios?" asked producer Herman Martin in a foreword to the book, which records how the nervous band took 18 attempts to get Love Me Do right.

Lennon's oscar for Let It Be auctioned

NEW YORK (AP) — John Lennon's 1970 Oscar for the song Let It Be was sold at auction for \$110,000. Lennon donated the statuette to the Southbury Training School in Southbury, Connecticut, for a 1976 celebrity auction for retarded people, and it brought \$600 then. Auctioneer Herman Darvick said Monday's buyer was a Beatles fan who did not wish to be identified. The man who bought the Oscar in 1976 also wished to remain anonymous, but told Darvick he would donate a portion of his profits to the school. Lennon was shot to death by a crazed fan, Mark David Chapman, outside his Manhattan apartment building on Dec. 8, 1980.